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Over 100 militants detained in Egypt

ASIS (AP) — Security authorities have detained more than 100 Muslim militants in Asis and other cities in a continuing government crackdown on allegedly violent extremist organizations, police officials said Tuesday. The detentions followed two armed attacks this month in Asis, 300 kilometers south of Cairo, a roadside attack on a police car in Cairo, and alleged "anti-government agitation" in Port Said, at the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal. The violence left one man dead and five wounded. Based on figures released by the Interior Minister Abdel Halim Mounir, the 106 arrests bring to 300 the number of Muslim militants detained in Egyptian jails under an emergency law. Mohamed Al Fakhary, Asis's police chief and acting governor, told reporters that 22 were detained in the last three days in his jurisdiction, a few weeks after their release from preventive custody. The detainees were inspected in a prison on a grocery store owned by a Coptic Christian on Feb. 2 and a video rental shop on Feb. 3, Fakhary said.

Kuwait warns Moscow

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwait warned the Soviet Union on Tuesday the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel would harm its ties with Arab states. The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said the warning was issued by Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev. "We expressed our deep regret over the exodus and we stressed to him that its continuation would be at the expense of relations between the Soviet Union and its Arab friends," KUNA, quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying. Israel expects about half-a-million Soviet Jews to arrive over the next few years. Arab states have expressed fears that many will be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, current chairman of the 46-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), last week accused Moscow of colluding with Washington over the migration, which he described as the "worst crime in the 20th century." The Soviet Union said Monday it could not reverse its policy on freedom of choice for those wishing to leave the country.

King in Riyadh for talks with Saudi leader

RIYADH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Tuesday for talks with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz expected to centre on the latest developments in the Middle East and possibilities of convening an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese situation and Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odah and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, was received upon arrival by King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and senior Saudi officials.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King was on a working visit to Saudi Arabia but it did not give details. Arab diplomats in Riyadh, quoted by the Associated Press, said the King's talks with the Saudi monarch could determine whether an Arab summit could be convened to discuss the situation and Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. Saudi Arabia, along with Morocco and Algeria, is a member of the Arab League committee of Lebanon. The committee was recommended a summit of the 22-member Arab League to follow up the attempts to restore a legitimate government in Lebanon. Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have led calls for a special summit of Arab leaders to discuss the anticipated influx of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel and the general course of peace efforts.

Israeli police beat up 40 students in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinian students were beaten by Israeli police in Bethlehem Tuesday but the army claimed they hurt themselves when they jumped over a ridge. Students and Palestinian witnesses quoted by Reuters said police entered a secondary school in the occupied West Bank town and beat students with clubs and gun butts.

An army spokesman said police entered the school yard after being stoned and pupils tried to run away. "Students injured themselves as a result of jumping over a ridge," he said. A Palestinian doctor at a Bethlehem hospital said he treated 20 students, many with broken bones and bruises. Officials at the Al Hussein hospital said 17 students arrived with various injuries, and three remained for observation. Mustafa Ishak, 16, one of the injured students, said police lined them up against a wall and clubbed them to find out who had thrown stones.

ling of the 26-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. He cited expulsions from the occupied territories, the transfer of detainees to Israel, destruction of dwellings, "disproportionate" use of force by authorities and "excesses" in Israeli jails.

Aoun seen poised to launch major onslaught on LF

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Renegade General Michel Aoun called up reserve forces Tuesday in apparent preparation for a major assault to overrun part of the Christian hinterland north of Beirut and cripple a rival militia. Meanwhile, Aoun's gunmen and militiamen of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces (LF) clashed with Howitzers and mortars in east Beirut and the snow-blanketed mountains northeast of the capital in the 15th day of the intra-Christian showdown.

'Sharon wanted Arabs to kill Arabs'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli parliamentarian Tuesday accused fellow Likud party member Ariel Sharon of wanting to quell the Palestinian uprising by arming Arabs to kill each other. Benjamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, levelled the charge a day after Sharon quit the government in protest at proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks.

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Ministry assails employers seeking cheap foreign labour

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's secretary-general Tuesday accused Jordanian businessmen of deliberately creating difficult conditions for Jordanians seeking employment to give themselves the pretext to demand permission for non-Jordanian workers.

"There are indications that owners of businesses in different sectors are following this course of action because they prefer foreign workers who receive less pay and work longer hours," Salah Khasawneh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said some non-Jordanian workers sleep at their place of employment and do additional work for the employer and his family, "all for less pay than it would take to pay Jordanians for the same job."

"Some businessmen try to find ways to avoid applying Ministry of Labour regulations and they more often than not try to get foreign workers to do jobs for which they did not obtain work permits from the ministry's offices," Khasawneh added.

According to the Labour Ministry official, by the end of last year there were nearly 200,000 non-Jordanian workers in the country of whom only 48,000 had acquired work permits.

Khasawneh said that only 10,545 people seeking employment applied for jobs through the ministry's offices last year, which found work for nearly 50 per cent of them.

He said that almost 60,000 unemployed workers in Jordan applied for jobs at the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which processes employees for work in government offices.

Most of the non-Jordanian workers are employed in the agricultural sector and do manual labour and other work shunned

UNICEF announces world summit on children's future

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 60 world leaders will meet under United Nations auspices in New York Sept. 23-24 to address ways to combat what is termed as the "silent emergency" of the 1990s which could lead to the unnecessary death of 150 million children in this decade alone.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, Richard Reid, "This summit will be the most important breakthrough for children in this century."

Reid told a press conference Tuesday the summit will seek to draw plans to ensure the survival of children against fatal but preventable diseases and preserve their human rights, health and education.

He described the situation of children in the world as the "silent emergency" and called for increased international awareness of it "before the problem destroys and undermines the future of children."

"If a plane crashes and 500 die, it receives due attention in

the media because it is a loud emergency," Reid pointed out. "It is necessary therefore to concentrate the minds of the decision-makers in the world on the problems of children and remove threats facing their present and future," he said.

According to Reid, current political developments in the world which have created a more relaxed and peaceful international atmosphere will contribute positively to the success of the summit.

"Because of the currents of peace and disarmament, dividends which were spent on destruction will now be partially spent on protecting children," he said. UNICEF hopes to be able to "capitalise on this new trend in the world."

The major aim of the summit will be to "arrive at a high level of international cooperation and determination to improve the status of children through procedures which would protect their interest when drawing up economic and social programmes," Reid said.

According to UNICEF statistics, there are over 14 million children living in streets

around the world, Reid said that Middle East children were living under especially difficult conditions as a result of wars in the region. "These are the children of disasters and war," he said.

In its annual 1990 report on children, UNICEF warned that around 40,000 children die every day at the rate of a child every two seconds and that more than half of these children die of preventable diseases.

Reid said more than 50 million children could be saved from death in the 1990s if "efforts on all levels were intensified and there was more political commitment."

The originally Beirut-based UNICEF regional office was relocated in Amman in 1983 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The Jordanian cabinet gave the regional office permanent status in 1986 upon the request of the U.N. organisation's headquarters.

The regional office is responsible for 18 countries in the Middle East and North Africa and Reid took office as its director in May 1986.

Ceremony to honour charity participants

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will today attend a ceremony to honour students participating in the Charitable Box Programme, organised by the Charitable Piaster Fund in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The Charitable Piaster Fund is a department affiliated to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The Charitable Box Programme is one of the activities of the fund.

Queen Noor will present the students with honorary certificates

acknowledging their participation in this noble and humane activity.

Certificates will also be granted to the schools that are members in the Charitable Piaster Committee, (a total of 120 certificates will be distributed).

The Ministry of Education and its directorates in the Greater Amman Municipality will be presented with four honorary certificates.

The ceremony will be held at the Palace of Culture at the Hussein Sports City.

British company helps install satellite

AMMAN (J.T.) — John Standen of North East Satellite Systems of England, has arrived in Jordan to supervise the installation of a satellite receiver system at the Department of Meteorology's national forest centre in Marka. On Wednesday, along with Malcolm Ives, development secretary at the British Embassy, he met with Ali Abandah, director-general of the meteorology department.

The system comprising a satellite dish, two receivers, two microcomputers, with monitors and a colour printer is valued at \$80,000 and is a gift from Britain to Jordan. Once operational, the equipment will receive data direct from METEOSAT which will greatly improve the information available on the other systems, particularly in the more remote parts of the Kingdom. The equipment will also help identify areas likely to be susceptible to locust infestations. Fahid Makhrak of the meteorological department recently spent three months at Reading University training to use the equipment.

Lower House slams Saudi assassination

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday denounced the assassination of three Saudi diplomats in Thailand earlier this month as a criminal and terrorist action and expressed deep sympathy with the Saudi people.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar, in a cable he sent to King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, said the House "strongly condemns this terrorist and criminal act and offers condolences to Saudi leaders and people over the death of innocent Saudi Arabian citizens."

"The House appeals to the Arab and Islamic nations to stand firm in the face of such criminal onslaught," he said.

"The time has come for the Arab and Islamic nations to deal firmly with the elements of evil which have been threatening peace and security in the Middle East," the cable said.

It said that the Arab and Islamic nations are in need of concerted efforts to spread harmony and preach amity and justice.

King visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited at the Armed Forces Headquarters, where he met with Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and senior Armed Forces officers and was briefed on the various activities carried out Armed Forces units. At the end of the visit, the King presented cups to end with the winning units in the training, technical and administrative fields.

New public committee in the making

AMMAN (J.T.) — The committee of Public Freedoms of the Professional Associations Complex plans to form a "public committee for national work" which will include several political and public figures among its members, according to Dr. Samir Yassin, deputy secretary-general of the Public Freedoms Committee. Yassin did not elaborate, but sources close to the committee told the Jordan Times that the proposed committee would include members of the Lower House of Parliament. The Professional Associations Complex is an umbrella foundation for 12 different professional unions in the Kingdom.

Ministry to mark ACC formation

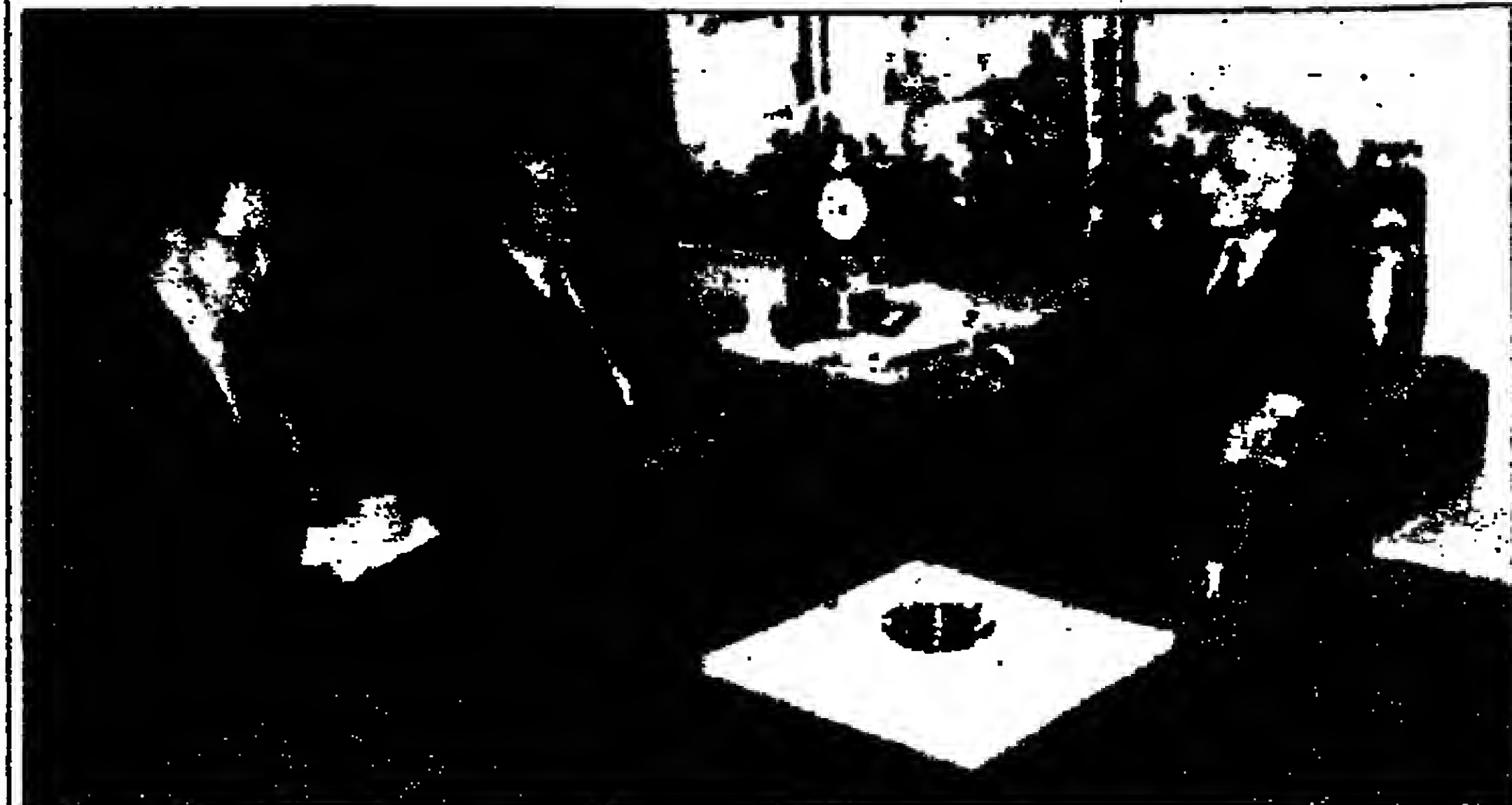
AMMAN (Petra) — To mark the first anniversary of the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), the ministries of youth and culture have drawn up a two-day programme, including a symposium on the formation of the ACC, football matches and cultural events. Taking part in the symposium will be Lower House of Parliament members Speaker Suleiman Arar, Amin Shukry and Hamdi Salem from the ACC. The football match will be held Friday between Al Hussein and Daffatein soccer teams.

Industrial exhibition to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day industrial exhibition will be held in Amman on the sidelines of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit due to be held here later this month. On display at the exhibition will be industrial items produced by the four ACC member-states — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen. Taking place in the exhibition will be more than 150 companies.

Radio, TV engineers meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of engineering departments at the radio and television corporations in Austria, Spain, Denmark, West Germany, Italy, Britain, Belgium, France, Cyprus, Jordan and the Netherlands met Tuesday at the headquarters of the European Broadcasting Union, in addition to Jordan. Tuesday began a five-day meeting here. Tuesday, participants were to discuss the latest breakthroughs in the fields of recording, radio and television transmission and the activities of the union's sub-committee.



Undersecretary in the Cypriot Foreign Ministry speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi to discuss the Palestine question.

Jordan, Cyprus sign science, culture cooperation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Cyprus Tuesday signed an agreement paving the way for cooperation in scientific and cultural fields and opening the door for strengthened relations in tourism, information, sports and youth affairs.

The agreement, signed by Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Safwan Touqan and under-secretary of the Cypriot Foreign Minister Angelos Angelides, said the two countries would launch cooperation in scientific research through their respective scientific institutions and would exchange visits by researchers and scientists and exchange books and publications and other information related to the field of research.

According to the agreement, the two sides would encourage exchanges in the fields of art, music and cinema and visits by artists to organise exhibitions and open the door for cooperation between libraries and museums in Jordan and Cyprus. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Cyprus National News Agency and television and radio stations in the two countries will cooperate, the agreement stipulated. Both sides also agreed to give facilities to each other in the fields of tourism and archaeology, sports and youth and physical education.

The signing of the agreement Tuesday came on the second day of Angelides' visit to Jordan. Upper House of Parliament speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi met with Angelides Tuesday for a general discussion of the Palestine problem.

Angelides repeated his country's support for a just and permanent solution to the Palestine problem and its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

He also called for more cooperation between Cyprus and Jordan in trade, tourism and culture.

Lawzi told Angelides that Jordan supports the United Nations secretary-general's endeavours to bring about a solution to the Cypriot problem.



Folklore troupe wins award

AMMAN (J.T.) — A folklore troupe affiliated to Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, recently took part in a spring festival held at Al 'Ain city in the United Arab Emirates.

The performances were attended by many people for eight successive days. The troupe won an award at the festival. The troupe, which

performed national Jordanian dances, will take part in an international cultural festival due to be held in Aswan, Egypt, Feb. 18.

Symposium begins on computerised designs

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium on preparing engineering designs by using computers began here Tuesday, with engineers from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the University of Jordan and the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research participating.

The course, organised by the RSS in cooperation with the University of Jordan's engineering and technology faculty and the Indian Council, is aimed at orienting engineers on benefits of using computers in engineering analysis and design.

Addressing the opening session, RSS President Hani Al Mulqi said that the symposium highlights the importance of cooperation among the countries of the developing world. He said that the economic structure of the world had rapidly changed and

that the world was on the threshold of a new stage, characterised by rapid technological and industrial progress. Therefore, he said, any new developments in the international economic structure would rely to a great extent on scientific and technological advance.

He pointed out that an agreement of cooperation between Jordan and the Indian Council was one of the cooperation programmes among the countries of the South. He praised such cooperation and called for supporting it in view of its mutual benefit for both India and Jordan. Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh, who attended the opening session, lauded Jordanian-Indian cooperation and noted that his country spends one per cent of its gross national product on research and development.

Thailand conference to review two papers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education will take part in an international conference on "Education for All" to be held in Thailand March 5. The major documents, one on the world declaration on education for all and the other on the mechanism of work which should be followed to achieve universal primary education, will be reviewed by the gathering.

The conference is organised jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereza, Mesgich, Mouschikine, Panchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Alla Announ, Nabila Hbiel and Nawal Abdolkah at Abdul Hameed Shammam Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Ma'ta University.

FILM

- A West German film entitled "The Pilot" at the Philadelphia Cinema — 8:00 p.m.

Marriott Hotel general-manager gets award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Francis Keenan, general-manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel for almost two years, has been named best general manager of the year for Marriott Corporation's International region, thus bringing the name of the Amman Marriott to the attention of many people all over the world.

One of Keenan's accomplishments is Amman Marriott's successful implementation of the quality improvement process, which reached all levels of the hotel, affecting the workers as well as the guests.

Upon informing Keenan of his valuable award, Terry Barlow, vice-president of Marriott Corporation, expressed his sincere gratitude to Keenan saying: "Frank has been instrumental in making the Amman Marriott a role model in quality improvement for all other hotels to follow."

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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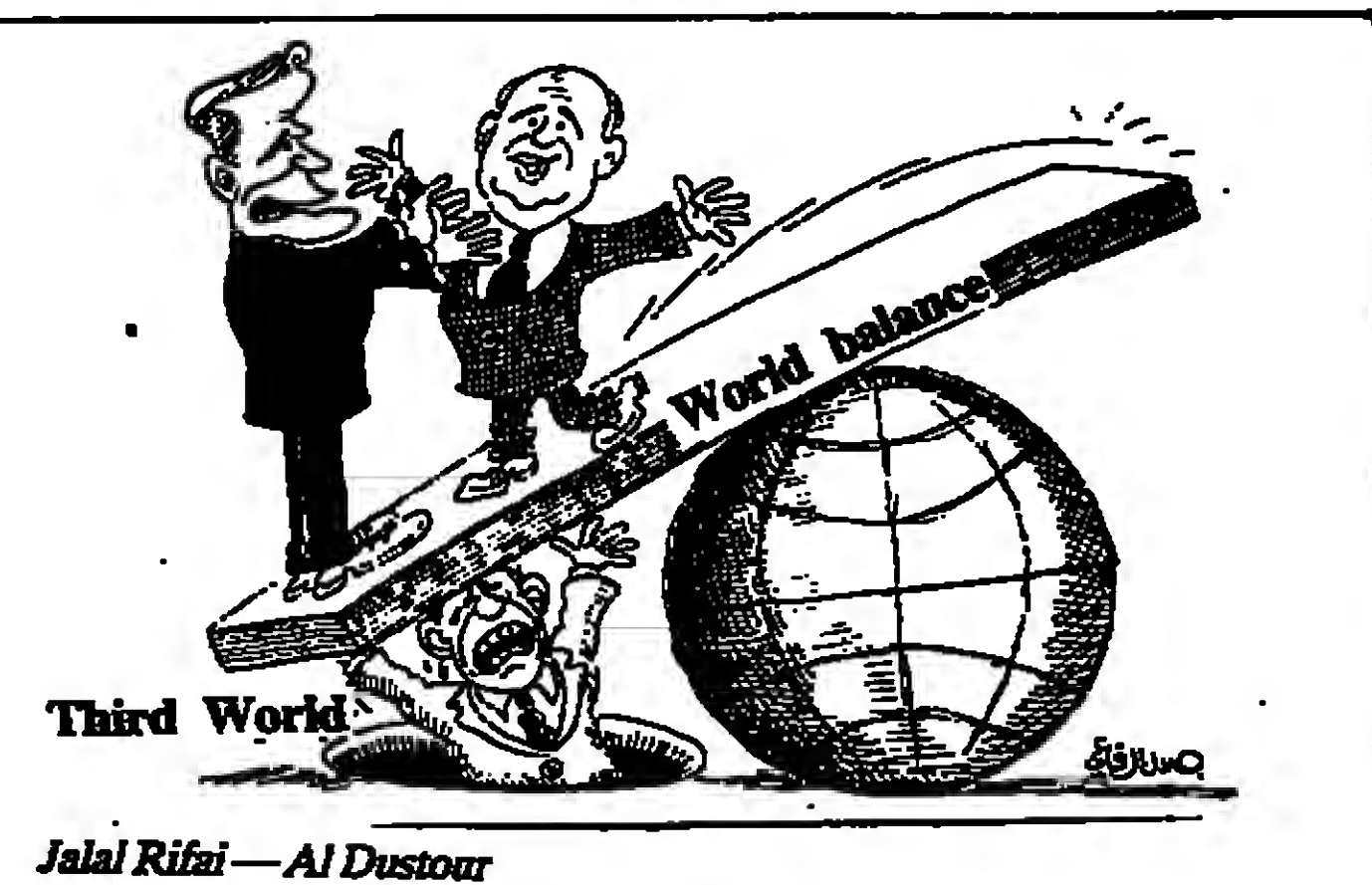
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Winners and losers

THE STRUGGLE for power within the magnets of Likud bloc can at best be dubbed a theatrical performance produced and directed for Israeli audience. From an Arab standpoint, the basics remain unchanged whether Sharon or any other Likud hawk succeeded in his bid for leadership of the right-wing party. Yitzhak Shamir, the incumbent Likud leader, is in his mid-seventies and it is natural that sooner or later another hardliner from within the ranks of his party would seek to topple him. Such changes at the helm of the Likud are, in fact, of minor effect on the course of events in the region. Moreover, it would make little difference whether the Likud or Labour is calling the shots in Israel, for the differences between the two parties are, in essence, cosmetic. Perhaps, the Labour Party is diplomatically more cunning in going about pursuing its objectives, and that is the sustainability of the Jewish state's hegemony over the occupied territories.

The crux of the matter is the old/new land-for-peace formula which should be the base for any political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israeli leaders must realise that without this formula peace can never be attained in this part of the world. Unless the leaders of Israel's ruling parties come to grips with the inevitability of accommodating Palestinian rights, the crisis is certain to head towards a catastrophic dimension that will not only affect this region but will also spill over to threaten stability in other parts of the world.

For its part the Arab side must remind the Israeli voters that their leaders are simply exploiting the question of achieving progress on the peace front for their own selfish ends. The Israeli people have now an opportunity to negotiate peace with the Palestinians on honourable grounds, and all they have to do is to say yes to dialogue and negotiations and not to procrastination and political acrobatics. The losers in the final analysis would of course be the Israeli and Palestinian peoples should the current efforts to put the two sides on talking terms be once again thwarted or derailed by their present leaders.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Sharon's resignation from the Israeli coalition government should be considered as resulting from differences and disputes between extremist elements within the Likud bloc over means of dealing with the situation in the occupied Arab territory, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper noted that Sharon resigned only because he is against any steps that the government might take towards peace with the Arabs. And this resignation sheds more light on the Zionist mentality and the extreme ideas which obsess the minds of the rulers of Israel who continue to pursue a racial discrimination policy against the Arab population, the paper noted. The Arabs should realise that the dispute between the Israeli leaders is only a dispute over those whom they want to destroy, but are differing on the means and the timing to carry out their criminal action, the paper warned. It said that there is no difference between the policies of the partners in the coalition either. It said both sides are intent on annihilating the Arabs, but one side is trying to impose its will on the other in terms of committing the evil action perpetrated against the Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomes the news of renewed Arab support for the rebels of Eritrea against Ethiopia which has now restored diplomatic ties with Israel. Mahmud Riasawi says that the news about Arab support being given to the rebels who have been suffering at the hands of Addis Ababa's rule coincided with reports about new victories achieved by the rebels in a number of regions especially in towns and port cities overlooking the Red Sea. Ethiopia has opened its doors for Israeli experts and Israeli arms in exchange for allowing its Jews to emigrate to Israel, the writer reminds readers. He says that the Arab Nation should offer the Eritrean rebels all forms of assistance, not only to bring down the repressive regime in Addis Ababa, but also to put an end to Israel's tampering with the African country's affairs which could be detrimental to Africa and the Arab Nation. Ethiopian ports on the Red Sea have been constantly used for arms shipments to Israel; their loss will be a hard blow for Tel Aviv since the Red Sea would be transformed into an internal Arab sea, the writer notes.

Al Dustour daily commented on the outcome of the Likud Party's convention in Israel which ended Monday in disarray. The result of the stormy meeting indicates without any doubt that the extremist Zionists have won the upper hand in the arena; but since no final end has been found for the differences among the leaders, the present coalition government is bound to live longer, the paper noted. But, it said, one should not be taken in by the deep differences, since the Zionists are all the same, and one should not think that the open disputes reflect democracy. The paper noted that the Israeli leaders are bent on displaying themselves as peace seekers but at the same time they continue to differ within their inner circles only on means of maintaining an aggressive policy directed against the Arab Nation.

PLO increasingly depressed about peace process

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — Sitting on the sidelines while Egypt, Israel and the United States do most of the talking, the PLO is growing increasingly divided about how to bring about Middle East peace and depressed about the chances of succeeding. Upstaged by events in Eastern Europe and fearful that Soviet Jewish emigrants might dialogue those Palestinians who still live in their homeland, PLO members are wondering whether they can go any further along the path of compromise.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has started to talk of resigning and PLO officials say there is growing support inside

the movement for stiff resistance to any new concessions.

PLO officials were unwilling to comment on Monday's developments in Israel, where a special Likud Party convention to discuss Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace plans ended in tumult.

Arafat and Salah Khalaf, one of his closest colleagues and a leading member of his mainstream Fatah group, say the peace process is close to a dead end and the organisation might have to consider unspecified alternatives.

"We have other options, and we hope that nobody will blame us if we take other steps," Arafat said in Baghdad on Sunday.

"Many people are saying the leadership should be more hard-line. They are not saying we

should call off diplomatic moves, but that we should keep under control," Khalaf said last week.

Diplomats engaged in preparations for proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo say Arafat is willing to accept a compromise formula for PLO representation in the talks.

But he faces fierce opposition inside the movement to any step which could dilute the PLO's claim to represent all Palestinians, they say.

Khalaf said it was out of the question, for example, for the PLO to give Egypt clearance to announce the names of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo meeting.

"If it (the PLO) accepted the Egyptians announcing the delega-

tion, the PLO's role would be finished... it would mean the settlement was only for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Who would dare take such a step? They are asking us for the impossible," he told Reuters.

Arafat has not spoken in public about the debate but Bassam Abu Sharif, an Arafat adviser who tends to float the PLO chairman's more controversial ideas, has said the organisation is flexible on how to announce the names of the delegation.

An Arab diplomat close to the PLO said he was confident Egypt and the United States could find a way to bridge the gap between Israel, which rejects any PLO role, and the PLO, which says it must be in from the start of the

process. "Finding a workable formula will pose no problems. Things will fall into place in a couple of days," he said.

One senior PLO leader, who asked not to be named, told Reuters: Arafat risked tearing apart the organisation and even his own Fatah movement if he went a step too far.

The start of what is expected to be a mass exodus of Soviet Jews and the waning of international interest in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories have added to the feeling of despair in the Palestinian movement.

An Arab League official of Palestinian origin has described

the exodus as a "dirty deal" between the superpowers at the expense of the Palestinians. The Arabs say Washington has deliberately restricted Soviet immigration so the Jewish emigrants have to go to Israel.

A Soviet foreign ministry official visited Tunis last month to reassure the PLO but the organisation won few concessions.

Palestinians were again angered when they were asked to denounce an attack on an Israeli tour bus in Egypt this month.

PLO officials said Israeli troops had been killing Palestinians, many of them women and children armed only with stones, at a rate of almost one a day since the intifada broke out in the occupied territories 26 months ago.

Sweden's Social Democrats turn left

By Lars Foyen
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's long-ruling Social Democratic Party has seen its public support erode to its lowest level in decades as it vacillated on whether to turn right or left for a solution to a deep economic crisis.

The party, split between free market reformists and traditionalists who want to preserve the world's most extensive welfare state, made its move on Thursday — to the left.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson proposed a tough economic package which included a ban on increases in prices, wages, rents and share dividends for the whole of 1990 and 1991. There was also a ban on strikes, to be enforced through hefty fines.

Carlsson says the Social Democrats will have no alternative to calling a new election if parliament turns down the austerity package this week.

"The government package undoubtedly has both power and a left-wing profile," said Afonblad, a national daily with close ties to the Social Democrats.

Critics agreed. "These are iron-fisted regulations. When all of Eastern Europe is leaving the planned economic path, Sweden suddenly takes a step in the opposite direction," said Nils Lundgren, chief economist of Swedish bank PKF-Banken.

"This smacks of the Soviet Union before Gorbachev came to power. I know of no free economy that has attempted this route in peacetime," added Carl Bildt, leader of the Conservative Moderate Party. "It will lead to bureaucracy, cheating and the demoralisation of our society."

The government knew it had to act to stop a wave of strikes which closed schools last year, banks this year, and threats to disrupt public transport, day care and hospital work this month.

Inflation is currently 6.7 per

cent and officially forecast to exceed 8.0 per cent, double the rate of Sweden's European competitors. Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise only 1.3 per cent in 1990.

An opinion poll published last week showed that popular support for the Social Democrats had eroded to 34 per cent — an unprecedented 10 per cent dive from its 1988 election result, and the lowest figure since polling began in the 1960s.

The Social Democrats have held power for all but 12 of the past 73 years, a record among Europe's democratic left.

Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt said the party's proudest achievement — the transformation of Sweden from a poor agrarian society to rich welfare state — was at stake.

"In the extension of the current situation looms a crisis for the whole Swedish welfare state. There are striking similarities to the situation in Britain in the winter of 1979."

"That was when wild strikes and chaos on the labour market provoked such a strong political reaction that the Conservatives were brought to power and could begin attacking the unions and dismantling the welfare state," he said.

Although Feldt, leader of the free market reformists in the party, publicly defended the crisis package, the new policy was seen as a victory for welfare state traditionalists.

The Social Democrats are divided and seen as indecisive on issues as diverse as tax reform, cautious privatisation of some public services, nuclear power, and plans for a bridge between Sweden and Denmark.

The underlying problem is that their so-called Swedish model of successful private enterprise combined with the stiffest taxes in the world, around 55 per cent of GDP, is increasingly unable to finance the swelling welfare state and the wage aspirations of 1.5

million public employees.

"Our living standard has not increased in real terms in the past 15 years," said economics professor Bo Sodersten, a former Social Democratic member of parliament.

"We have fundamental problems, all of our own making. They include falling productivity in the public sector and the party's links to strong unions concerned only about their own members."

Feldt believes free market reform is the solution. He is the driving force behind a dramatic reduction of personal taxes from 1991 and last year's deregulation of capital markets designed to bring Sweden in line with the European Community's single market.

These moves have only served to alienate the party's left wing who see it drifting away from its working-class roots.

The poll by the leading Sifo Institute showed the Social Democrats losing strength among traditional support groups — blue-collar workers and public sector employees.

Another result of the disenchantment is the formation of a 'small breakaway' party which 'could cost the Social Democrats marginal but important votes' in the next general election, scheduled for September 1991.

Carlsson has threatened that his minority government will resign if parliament does not approve his economic package.

Although key union leaders gave the green light for the austerity package, the Social Democrats might have to fight an early election without the full support of union members shocked by the strike ban and the introduction of hefty fines to enforce it.

Said Lillemor Arvidsson, chairman of a large public employee union which threatened to go on strike next week: "The strike ban is sheer lunacy, a provocation."

Jewish settlers want to move into Gaza city

By Jack Redden
Reuters

GAZA (R) — Jewish settlers who have built homes on the fringes of the occupied Gaza Strip now want a more potent symbol of Israeli control — a settlement in the heart of its largest Palestinian city.

"Looking at practical aspects, you have to see it as just coming home to the state of Israel," said Menachem Bethalakhumi, spokesman for the council grouping Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Such a settlement would undoubtedly be seen as a provocation inside Israel and abroad, and would be unlikely to win approval from the present national unity government.

But Bethalakhumi said he already had a group of ex-soldiers volunteering to live inside sprawling Gaza city.

"They are a group of young people who after the army want to re-establish the Jewish community... we are interested in forming a neighbourhood in the city of Gaza," he told Reuters.

Bethalakhumi said prospective settlers would have to prove their determination and gain acceptance by one of the organisations that start up new communities. The move into the heart of a city of 150,000 Arabs would be bound to outrage Palestinians, whose resistance to 22 years of Israeli occupation exploded into a popular uprising that began in a Gaza refugee camp in December

1987. But the settlers of Gaza see it as a logical extension of their programme.

"I think all the people who live here believe this is part of Israel," said Danya Henskovitz, an activist for a settlers' organisation.

Henskovitz foresees a group of about 20 Jewish families taking over an apartment building in Gaza city. She does not consider the lack of land a problem.

"I believe it will happen," she told Reuters. "The quicker the better for everyone. It can't go on."

The 3,000 Gaza settlers have a living standard to which few Palestinians — or even Israelis jammed in Tel Aviv apartments — could aspire. Having to live in fortified encampments is the price they pay.

At the newest settlement, Kfar Darom, a steel observation tower rises beside the guarded entrance gate. Triple rows of barbed wire reinforce the chain-link fence.

The nearby greenhouses are surrounded by an electric fence that carries signs showing a skull and crossbones under the words "danger, high voltage."

Gaza settlers drive between their 16 settlements in cars with reinforced windows along roads continually patrolled by the army.

Although the next Gaza settlement, Dugit, has been approved for the spring, the resources of the 350 square kilometre territory are already overtaxed by 650,000 Palestinians.

Kfar Darom runs two water systems — one for drinking, a second for other uses — because the aquifer beneath the Gaza Strip has become contaminated with salt water through over-pumping.

A new pipeline tapping into Israel's water carrier, that runs from Lake Galilee in the north, is under construction to provide fresh water for more settlers and their greenhouses.

Despite the obstacles to moving into an area which is already one of the most congested on earth, the settlers believe they will eventually replace the present residents.

"Because there is a big problem here we think it is very important for Jews to settle in a place like this," said Ornit Gutwig, a 24-year-old mother who helped found the Kfar Darom settlement last October.

Although settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now number more than 70,000, official backing for a settlement in the heart of Gaza city would seem unlikely.

Yet the case of Hebron, the largest city in the West Bank, could inspire settlers facing government opposition.

In April 1989 two Jewish families suddenly moved into the centre of the Palestinian city. After 10 months the government gave them permission to stay.

More than a decade later, Jewish settlers are still in Hebron, surrounded by barbed wire and watched over 24 hours a day by Israeli soldiers.

Descendents of Genghis Khan do democracy their own way

By James Kyng
Reuters

ULAN BATOR — In the vast land of Mongolia, where sheep outnumber people six to one and Genghis Khan is a superstar, democracy demonstrations are bound to be unusual.

Oriental in appearance, Mongolians were orphaned from their Asian family by the Soviet Red Army 69 years ago and then adopted by Moscow into the Communist fold.

Now, in a drive to cast of communism, activists are stressing Mongolia's oriental heritage and shunning the path to democracy taken by their former socialist brothers in Eastern Europe.

"We are not Eastern Europeans or Russians. We are Mongols," said Gongsorjavln Boshigt, a 50-year-old leader of the newly-formed Mongolian Democratic Association.

"Maybe some European will come here and say we are all primitive. Let him say it. He too has the right to be mistaken," said Boshigt, a former aide to a senior Communist government official.

The movement was founded in a dingy classroom at the Mongolia State University in December last year and since then has staged four popular rallies in the capital Ulan Bator and one in an outlying town.

"Mongolians to your horses," read a banner fluttering at one rally where several thousand people turned out muffled in furs against temperatures of minus 30 degrees Centigrade.

The phrase is an ancient battle cry used by Genghis Khan to rouse his marauding "golden hordes" to feats of slaughter that created the world's biggest land empire in the 13th century.

"Telling Mongolians to get on their horses is symbolic, not literal," said a government tourist guide. "It may seem funny to Europeans but it is serious to us."

The democracy movement venerates Genghis Khan, known more for pillage and rape than



liberal democracy, as an outstanding man and has pledged to remove character smears placed on him by the Communists.

One prominent member of the movement, a tonsured monk in flowing saffron robes, said he believed Genghis Khan was a closet, living Buddha who attained nirvana and now resides in heaven as a Buddhist deity.

"Most people in Mongolia do not know Genghis was a living Buddha because he kept it secret but many monks in this monastery believe it," Dorigjavyn Baasan told foreign reporters at Gandan Monastery in Ulan Bator.

The monastery, where members of the yellow sect of Buddhism chant incantations beside flickering butter lamps, is the only one in Mongolia allowed to function.

Part of the democracy movement's platform is the reopening of some monasteries closed or partially destroyed on the orders of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin between 1937 and 1944.

Mongolia, wedged between the Soviet Union and China, is a landlocked nation of two million people living on a territory three times the size of France. Soviet-built factories belch smoke in polluted towns and 16 tribes of nomadic herdsmen tend some 22 million head of livestock.

Its people, although well-fed

and clothed, earn an average monthly wage of 400 tugriks (\$133 at the official rate but just \$15 on the more realistic black market).

This low standard of living is the main cause of dissatisfaction and many people blame Communist misrule. But the anger and passion of anti-government protests in Eastern Europe have barely featured here.

Respected university lecturer Sanjasuren Zorig, chief of the association's coordinating council, speaks in a monotone and urges cooperation rather than confrontation with the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

At one demonstration in Ulan Bator's central Sukhbaatar Square protesters doffed their fur hats to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the death of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin.

In contrast also to China's anti-government tumult last year when students protested every day until the army thundered in, demonstrations have been limited to Sundays.

"We are not going to be like dogs and go out on the streets every day," said Boshigt. He said the movement was riven with different opinions on what demands should be made and how to pressure the government.

But he, like others, hoped that the ballot box at the association's first congress scheduled for Feb. 18,

London to have multi-ethnic radio

By Max de Lathauere

LONDON — "The idea was to have some sort of media to communicate with my people," explains Sami Salama, a 40-year-old Egyptian who came to London 15 years ago. All he had was a farming degree, but along with it, a lot of determination. Now he is one of the founding directors of Spectrum Radio, a unique multi-ethnic radio station which is set to start broadcasting in London this April. "I decided to leave Egypt when I finished my studies. It was the beginning of the 1970s. Everyone had high expectations, but I knew there was nothing I could do to change the situation, so I changed countries."

Now Salama is in the midst of the final, frantic preparations for a minor revolution in British radio. He admits that setting up a radio station in Egypt would have been almost impossible, but even here, the idea of an independent station serving ethnic communities was until recently just a dream.

From the outside, Spectrum Radio today is an unimposing sight: it is housed in one of those box-like, single-story portable buildings in an empty lot in north London. Inside, though, are two fully-equipped studios and a mass of hi-fi and recording equipment. It is also a base for Salama and five other co-founders as well as a chief executive.

What makes Spectrum unique, not just in Britain but worldwide, is its structure. It is an umbrella under which eight different ethnic minorities have pooled their resources and skills working with each other to talk to ethnic communities in their own language. Spectrum's air time will be divided into broadcasts in Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Afro-Caribbean languages. Broadcast on the AM band, it will cover the whole Greater London area.

Salama was determined to bring London Arabs together. While not the largest ethnic community, Arabs from all over the Middle East, from Saudi royalty to Moroccan migrant workers, have made their homes there. For a dozen years, Salama, who is a married father of two, worked in different jobs, as a night-club manager, a tour guide and in his own building and decorating firm. But his idea stayed with him. "I felt the Arab community in London lacked a voice and needed some form of media to communicate without barriers," he explains.

The question of what media to use was soon resolved with the appearance of pirates on London's airwaves in the early 1980s. Britain has always prided itself on its high broadcasting standards and until only seven years ago, the dial on Londoners' radios offered only four BBC and two commercial channels with only minimal reference to local ethnic communities. There had been pirate radio before and the most famous, Radio Caroline, still evades government inspectors by broadcasting from a ship anchored in the English Channel.

The 1980s and the arrival of cheaper technologies saw pirate radio mushrooming all over the city, broadcasting on the FM band from makeshift studios installed at the top of high-rise housing blocks. Their number was prolific but professionalism was not always there, and most fed the capital a strict diet of booming disco music. The first new voice to be heard



For more than a decade Sami Salama has tried to give London's Arab community a voice. With the Spectrum multi-ethnic radio station he can fulfill his dream.

was that of the Greek Cypriot community who had set up an illegal radio station in northeast London. The station, now long gone along with many other pirates, gave Salama the inspiration he was seeking. "When I heard the Greeks, I thought, if they can do it, so can the Arabs," he recalls. "I didn't know how to set up a radio station and it wasn't easy. You have to know a good engineer who can build a transmitter. From there you start by learning from your mistakes."

All he had by way of experience was some work in the theatre and television in Cairo. It wasn't much, but says Salama, it gave him confidence. Arab Community Radio, as he called it, went on the air at the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, in 1985. "I began programmes at about 5 p.m. We relayed papers and people would then knock their fist. From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. we put on entertainment like quizzes and shows recorded off Egyptian radio. We also played music and broadcast would end at dawn when people started fasting again."

For Arab in London, Ramadan is a social time when the community comes together. "The radio was very important because it was like bringing people home," Salama adds. The response from those early days when the studio was in Salama's kitchen was encouraging. People telephoned all the time and he soon realised he had a wide audience among women and young people as well as Arab tourists in London. The radio, run by Salama almost single-handedly, was supported financially by the community and with advertising.

It was not long before the station came to the attention of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) — the agency responsible for policing the airwaves — and Arab Community Radio, along with other ethnic pirate stations, was repeatedly raided. Although the government seized equipment, the pirates

would set up again elsewhere.

In 1984, Salama and other pirates began to campaign together for legal access by ethnic groups to radio. That was the foundation of Spectrum Radio. A year later the group submitted applications for community licences.

But bureaucratic tangles led pirates like Salama back to their transmitters and illegal broadcasts. Between raids, Salama continued developing links with his own community. "I was surprised to hear from the Moroccan community. They are working people and many, particularly the wives and mothers do not speak English. I do not understand their Arabic, but they were phoning in to say they could understand me."

In 1988, the last year of Arabic Community Radio, the DTI admits it raided Salama five times, but on Jan. 1, 1989, he closed down the station of his own accord. Meanwhile, Spectrum had become a legally recognised consortium and it had received a local government grant which enabled it to set up studios and permanent base. When the government requested applications for a multi-ethnic radio licence, Salama and his five colleagues at Spectrum applied and they won the licence from among 40 other applicants.

Beverly Bond, who is a joint director of the Jewish group at Spectrum, likes to point to the cooperation that exists between the ethnic groups making up the consortium. "There aren't many places in the world where you have Arabs and Jews working together for the benefit of both communities," she says, "we've got that here at Spectrum."

The new station has high hopes. Soon it will move out of the cramped studios into a new, larger studio and office space. In addition, the BBC has agreed to let Spectrum use one of its powerful AM transmitters which will take the broadcasts right across the Greater London area. There remains the task of equipping the

studios, recruiting staff and promoting what will be London's fourth largest 24-hour radio station in time for the April start.

According to Spectrum projections, drawn up with the help of seasoned local radio managers, the station's income from advertising alone could reach more than \$4 million a year. Salama, who like the other directors of the consortium, is responsible for running his own Arabic section as an independent company, is aware of the advertising potential. In addition to the relatively high income of London's resident Arabs, tourists create a large market. According to 1988 figures, for example, the 490,000 Arab tourists who visited Britain that year spent over \$700 million.

But Salama is looking mostly to the community for support. He plans to broadcast in standard Arabic two hours a night, from 10 p.m. to midnight. The show will be a mix of entertainment, community news and information. He is also allocated a morning slot, once a week, when there will be a mix of Arabic and English.

Salama's claim to have long been the lone voice of the Arab community is a fair one, but in the future, he will have to spend less time at the microphone and more time managing the radio's affairs. But at least, he won't have to worry about raids. Recalling an incident during his early pirate days, he said: "The DTI engineers turned up on a raid, but the door to the studio was locked and I refused to open it. I told them I couldn't let them have the equipment because it belonged to the community and they would have to ask the community's permission. My solicitor told them they had no right to break down the door, so they smashed down the wall around the door and confiscated everything."

A cautionary tale perhaps, but for Salama, the principle still holds true: Spectrum belongs to the community and it is the community that will shape its future — World News Link.

Cannibalism is a deep taboo, says a vegetarian

By Lucy Ellmann

HAVING made sure my Will was in order I proceeded to Penguin Books — intrepid reporter in search of an interview with Marianne Wiggins. A nervous and sinister man was already inquiring about her at reception and behaving in a highly suspicious manner: he turned out to be from The Times.

I was led to a restaurant by a roundabout route, due to the feigned ignorance of the local terrain professed by my escort, a Penguin employee. I checked my own handbag for bombs as we entered the establishment, not knowing whom to trust anymore. In a corner of the restaurant sat Marianne Wiggins wearing two T-shirts, relaxed and unbowed by tragic events. I now rather regretted my bullet-proof vest.

A participant in one of the trickiest marital situations since Romeo and Juliet, Wiggins endures the added irony of being a writer and a feminist. Just after the publication of John Dollar last year, her fifth novel, Wiggins, an American found herself flung into hiding with her husband, Salman Rushdie, and an all-male crew of protectors. Reviews of her book were emblazoned with photos of Salman, and she is periodically asked, out of envy or naivete, why she troubles herself with a career at all when she could fall back on her husband's legendary dough.

Though still very much married, they now live separately. Marianne admits to a love of normal freedoms. She's glad to be back in the company of women and eager to promote the paperback edition of her book which, even without the author's help, made its way into the best-seller list in America last year.

John Dollar is the story of a party of British colonialists, of varying individual merit, who set off from Rangoon in 1918 on an ill-fated pleasure-trip to the Andaman Islands. They intend to change the name of one of these from The Island of Our Outlawed Dreams to King George's Island, but are waylaid in their arrogant task, first by a sudden impulse to massacre turtles and then by earthquakes and tidal waves. A few young girls and a paralysed sailor,

John Dollar, are washed up on the shore of the unredempted island and proceed to forget the ins and outs of civilised behaviour with frightening speed.

In the girls' defence, Wiggins says that "they are attempting to make a society from their received ideas and those received ideas don't work under those circumstances. They look to John Dollar perhaps as a God substitute, certainly as a patriarchal substitute, and expect him to come up with the answers and he hasn't got them. In fact he can see the fatality of their situation and acquiesces to it."

The girls are forced to depend on their own juvenile notions of survival. Naked, immobile and dumb, John Dollar is a helpless victim of the rituals they devise. They oil his hair, make an altar of his body and worship it by eating him alive in a desperate parody of Holy Communion.

"Cannibalism is a deep taboo," says Wiggins, who is a vegetarian and who's turning me into one as we speak. "And those men who created Christianity incorporated it into their religious rites — in order to subvert it. Two thousand years before Freud! They knew what they were doing: 'Take my body.'"

All of the words of the deepest, most passionate love involve consuming. The most passionate kisses, the modern fear of merging with another person, the total giving up of self into another, I think is very, very deep in the species. And I think we're alone in that — bears don't love the same way we do." According to Wiggins, cannibalism still exists in the Andaman Islands and needs a disguised safety-valve in all societies.

The daughter of a Christian fundamentalist father and a Greek Orthodox mother, Marianne Wiggins struggled with religion from an early age, and there's still a sense of disappointment in her dismissal of it now. It failed her particularly at puberty, when she was told she couldn't take Communion when she was menstruating. "There was no time when a man couldn't take Communion," she says indignantly. "His body was always clean, and I started questioning that because most of the boys I knew



Marianne Wiggins — "It would be wonderful to have something to pray to in times of duress".

when I was a teenager were dirtier than I was." Her father added to her doubts by his refusal to have Darwin in the house. Happily, these restrictions inspired, some defiance.

She doesn't mock the optimism that leads some people towards blind faith: "It would be wonderful to have something to pray to in times of duress, a belief that the act of praying is an expiation and that something can come of it. It's really hard to know that you've just got to fall back on chance and human frailty."

Heathens of today seek spiritual uplift in the arts: John Dollar's downfall comes not when he loses God but when he can no longer understand Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks. Wiggins appreciates the Impressionists, Rothko and Bacon, but has no interest in the current art scene. When a sculptor friend told her he had an "installation" in some New York foyer which involved using people's footprints, etc, Wiggins could barely contain her amusement. "It just sounded silly to me. If you've ever lived with a toddler you get a daily installation and you have to clean it up!" Wiggins takes pride in her own writing, and in Salman's. She's

intrigued by the contrast between his massive approach and her own pared-down rhythmic prose, a difference of personalities illustrated by the way they play charades. Marianne takes the film or book title syllable by syllable; Salman acts out the whole of War and Peace. "Once he was given 101 Dalmations, and for five minutes, no one guessing anything, Salman ran around on all fours, darting about trying to be a hundred and one of them, all at the same time, as well as Cruella de Ville."

What Wiggins objects to most is silence — the lack of a public outcry against the Rushdie affair, or against the destruction of the NHS — and its American opposite, the travesties of language committed in the name of free speech. She dragged out a Herald Tribune. "There's this ridiculous ruling. It's such an example of legislative comedy," she said, and read me the judge's decision: "Even the beggar sitting at Grand Central Station with a tin cup at his feet conveys the message that he and others like him are in need. While often disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic, begging is unmistakably informative and persuasive speech!" — The Guardian.

By Randall Mikkelsen
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A vegetarian meal in every pot, a solar heater on every roof and a bicycle in every garage are imperatives for an ecologically safe future, the Worldwatch Institute environmental group has said.

In its "State of the World" report for 1990, the Washington research group said a world dedicated to recycling, food and energy efficiency and slow population growth must be built within 40 years if modern civilisation is to survive.

"If we have not succeeded by 2030, environmental degradation and economic decline will be feeding on each other, causing social structures to disintegrate," said institute president Lester Brown.

Such declarations are not new for Brown, whose group has been

Less meat, more bikes, solar energy for an ecologically sound future

predicting a dire fate in annual reports since 1984, and who is known for commuting via bicycle in a city where luxury cars are common.

This year's report devotes its final chapter to a detailed description of the "sustainable society" of tomorrow that Brown said is the earth's last chance.

"A sustainable society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardising the prospects of future generations," the Worldwatch report said.

It is filled with images of elec-

tricity-generating windmills in northern Europe, of solar water heaters meeting every household's needs, and of hydrogen-powered cars and human-powered bicycles filling city streets.

Reducing dependency on fossil fuels will help forestall global warming caused by the atmospheric accumulation of carbon dioxide and other gases, which threatens to wreak havoc in world agriculture, Worldwatch said in the report.

Also, it said people in developed countries must get used

to eating less meat as the food demands of a growing population will make it more difficult to use grains for feeding livestock or poultry.

The report offered the seemingly unappealing alternative of fish from sewage-fertilised ponds.

"A steady flow of nutrients from human waste into ponds can supply food for a vigorously growing population of algae that in turn are consumed by fish," it said.

Brown said his ambitions for the world are more than fantasy, and that the technology he advocates is already available or within reach.

But essential to the plan is controlling population growth, the report said. Although the United Nations forecasts a world population of nine billion people by 2030, that is about one billion too many for the available resources, it said.

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Tunisia recommends single North Africa energy market

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian Economy Minister Moncef Belaid proposed a plan Tuesday to create a single North African energy market.

Opening a meeting of Arab Maghreb Union ministers in Tunis, he said free trade in electricity, petroleum products and natural gas could form the basis of the common market the union is trying to establish.

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia set up the A. Maghreb Union a year ago in response to the challenge of a single European market across the Mediterranean.

"The abundance of energy in some states in the Arab Maghreb and the shortage in some others is an important incentive to... open our borders to Maghreb energy instead of resorting to foreign markets," Belaid said.

His six-point plan, prepared by experts at a meeting last December, proposes linking the electricity grids of all five states, building gas pipelines throughout the region and allowing free competition in the marketing and distribution of petrol products by national oil corporations.

The national grids of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia are already linked and there are plans to link those of Tunisia and Libya. Be-

laid also brought up the idea of exporting North African electricity to Europe through cables across the Strait of Gibraltar and to Sicily.

Meanwhile, Tunisia is making the transition from a closed economy based on import-substitution to one based on openness to the rest of the world, according to trade figures.

Overall trade grew 33 per cent in 1989 though part of this massive increase came from changes in the use of energy products and higher food imports to compensate for two years of drought.

1,112 million (\$1,235 million) in 1988, export did rise faster than imports.

The figures are slightly distorted by a switch from the use of locally refined fuel oil in power stations to natural gas imported from Algeria. This helped free an extra 1.2 million tonnes of crude oil for export and added to the gas import bill.

The main growth areas for exports were cement, clothing, semi-finished footwear and phosphate derivatives.

Economists said the high rate of growth in imports of machinery, especially for the textile, electrical and computer industries, indicated an encouraging level of investment.

But imports of consumer goods have also risen sharply. "It's disturbing that the proportion of consumer goods in overall imports has actually increased," said one. The proportion in 1989 was 25.6 per cent against 25.2 in 1988.

Total exports in 1989 were worth 2,782 million dinars (\$3,100 million), a 35.4 per cent increase over against 2,055 million (\$2,280 million) in 1988.

Drexel seeks merger partner or investor

NEW YORK (R) — Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., the securities firm that fuelled Wall Street's merger mania in the 1980s with its huge junk bond business, said Monday it would be seeking a merger partner or investor because of financial pressures.

Rumours of trouble at Drexel have circulated since the departure of financial wizard Michael Milken, who was indicted in the U.S. government's broad-ranging insider trading probe and left the firm last June. Milken, who is preparing a defence for a pending court case, has pleaded not guilty.

penalties in late 1989.

Drexel was one of Wall Street's most profitable brokers until the past two years when the high-yielding, speculative debt securities, called junk bonds, fell out of favour.

"The unsettled markets, particularly in the high yield area, have already affected the liquidity of our parent corporation, Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, which has consolidated net worth of over \$800 million," Drexel said in a statement explaining its decision to find a partner.

The government put pressure on Drexel to cut its ties with Milken when Drexel settled insider-trading related charges and paid \$650 million in fines and

Drexel was a sleepy, second-rank Wall Street firm before Milken turned it into the pioneer and dominant player in the \$15 billion junk bond market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, February 13, 1990			Central Bank official rates	
	Buy	Sell	Swiss franc	437.7
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	French franc	115.2
Pound Sterling	1112.2	1122.3	Japanese yen (for 100)	456.0
Deutschmark	391.8	395.7	Dutch guilder	347.5
			Swedish crown	107.4
			Italian lira (for 100)	52.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	187.5
				189.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6830/40	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2000/10	Canadian dollar	
	1.6858/65	Deutschemarks	
	1.9000/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.5037/44	Swiss francs	
	35.22/27	Belgian francs	
	5.7300/50	French francs	
	1251/1253	Italian lire	
	144.52/62	Japanese yen	
	6.1200/600	Swedish crowns	
	6.4905/55	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5105/55	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	419.50/420.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Prices dropped broadly at the close. Pre-election jitters and concern over Monday's dip in U.S. stocks gave investors ample excuse to avoid buying and volume was the thinnest for 35 years. The Nikkei Index closed at 37,107.03, down 181.11 on Friday's close.

HONG KONG — Shares tumbled on expected consolidation after last week's 5.75 pct rally. The Hang Seng Index lost 31.11 to 2,863.55.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a weak note as the Straits Times Industrial Index retreated sharply to end at 1,575.88, down 17.89 points from Monday's record of 1,593.77.

BOMBAY — Share prices ran out of steam after an early rally, ending quietly mixed in volatile trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange eased 0.01 to 673.26.

FRANKFURT — Shares gave up early gains and closed one pct down on worries about soaring yields on German bonds and the costs of German monetary union. The DAX fell 19.41 to 1,840.98.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed steady to slightly lower in moderate trade as the market followed Frankfurt's lead. The SPI Index lost 1.8 to 1,118.4.

PARIS — Share prices were knocked to the year's lows by further news of Perrier stocks being withdrawn on worries over benzene contamination. The CAC-40 Index ended at 1,845.43, down 21.97.

LONDON — Shares gave up most of the day's gains as Wall Street dipped after Drexel Burnham Lambert said it was considering a bankruptcy filing. At 1645 GMT the FTSE was 5.3 up at 2,292.2.

NEW YORK — Technical support helped Blue Chips regain much of their losses after Drexel Burnham Lambert said it might file for bankruptcy. The Dow was off five at 2615.

Egypt opens fair in Jeddah

JEDDAH (R) — Egypt's biggest foreign trade fair opens in Saudi Arabia Wednesday with some 200 Egyptian firms eager to enter the kingdom's wealthy consumer market.

The exhibition in the kingdom's commercial capital reflects growing warmth in Saudi-Egyptian relations restored three years ago after a 10-year break over Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Saudi Arabia postponed its own national industrial exhibition to allow Egypt the honour of opening the new Jeddah International Fair Centre.

The Egyptian firms, a mixture of publicly-owned and private companies, are offering a wide range of goods from textiles and ready-made garments to electrical appliances, furniture, food-

stuff, leather products and ceramics.

"Any Egyptian product that can compete with foreign products will find a place in the Saudi market," said Ezzat Ghazi, Egypt's commercial attaché in Jeddah.

Bilateral trade in 1988 totalled 900 million riyals (\$240 million). Final figures for 1989 were not available, but Ghazi said they were certainly higher.

He expected the Egyptian fair to boost trade to one billion riyals (\$267 million) in 1990.

"We believe we'll achieve this figure, God willing," Ghazi said, adding that trade exchanges were balanced.

Egypt imported petrochemicals, cables and power pylons from Saudi Arabia while Cairo sold

iron, steel, aluminium and farm products.

Ghazi said there were promising signs in the Saudi market for Egyptian furniture, leather products and carpets.

The two countries plan to increase trade through tax exemption and studies are under way for a regular sea link to ease the flow of goods.

Ghazi said up to June, Saudi Arabia had invested 960 million Egyptian pounds (\$375 million) in 174 joint ventures in Egypt, with total costs of 2.5 billion pounds (\$1 billion). These covered industrial and farm products.

Saudi Arabia also has shares worth six million pounds (\$2.3 million) in Egyptian firms producing medical equipment and paper among other things.

Nigeria to ask Paris Club to forgive part of \$29b debt

PARIS (R) — Nigeria is to ask for part of its debt to be written off or rescheduled to prevent its 1990 export revenue being totally eaten up by debt payments, Budget Minister Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji said.

Nigeria will approach its government creditors in the Paris Club, who bear half its external debt, at a meeting during the first quarter of 1990, Alhaji said in an interview.

The industrial nations have begun to write off the debts of certain countries. We want a more significant part of our debt to be forgiven. Failing that, we want a long-term rescheduling," he said.

Nigeria won a rescheduling of its Paris Club debt in March 1989.

Alhaji said that if the debt was not renegotiated, the 43 billion naira (\$5.5 billion) of export revenue Nigeria expected in 1990 would be eaten up almost entirely by debt servicing of 40 billion naira (\$5.1 billion).

He recently put Nigeria's external debt at \$29.12 billion.

Alhaji said it would be difficult to ease up on the government's current austerity drive because Western countries would then refuse aid.

"The Western powers ought to be ashamed of themselves — ashamed to demand such severe adjustment programmes before consenting to give their assistance," he said.

Alhaji said the results of the adjustment policies were beginning to bear fruit, with essential goods no longer scarce, agricultural production improving and the non-oil sector now accounting for around one quarter of exports.

But increased productivity was still needed to fight inflation which remained a source of concern. He did not contradict the figure of 47 per cent for inflation in 1989 suggested by the French newspaper Le Monde.

Another problem was the increase in the population which continued to outstrip economic growth.

"We are consuming more than we are producing," Alhaji said.

Mandela's tough stance worries business circles

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Financial markets in South Africa reacted negatively Monday after freed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela endorsed the group's guerrilla campaign and advocated nationalisation.

Gold shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange dropped four per cent during the day, and the financial rand — a special currency used by foreign investors — dropped 10 per cent in value.

Analysts quoted by local newspapers attributed the slump to nervousness over Mandela's remarks.

The initial reaction of the business community to Mandela's release Sunday was enthusiastic, with executives and leaders of employer associations saying it would speed political reform and convince some Western countries to resume investment.

Gavin Kelly, chairman of the Anglo American Corp. mining conglomerate, called the release "a major step toward normalising South Africa's political life."

But the mood changed after Mandela made a speech reaffirming support for the ANC guerrilla campaign and for its goal of nationalising mines and banks.

"The nationalisation of mines is a fundamental policy of the ANC," Mandela said Sunday. "I believe the ANC is quite correct in this attitude."

The pronouncements were causing "jitters and uncertainty, particularly among foreign investors," an economist at a major bank said on condition of not being identified.

Mandela's stance will "definitely have a negative effect on foreign perceptions of investment in South Africa, on local business confidence and on private fixed investment," the economist said.

Business leaders remained hopeful that President F.W. de Klerk's reforms and concessions would convince Western countries to abandon or ease the sanctions imposed in recent years as a protest against apartheid.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a longtime opponent of sanctions, dropped academic and cultural embargoes when de Klerk legalised the ANC earlier this month. She now wants to end a ban on new investment.

Britain intends to push for a lifting of sanctions at a Feb. 20 meeting of European Community (EC) foreign ministers in Dublin, Ireland.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Turkey gives Iraq \$800m credits

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey has signed protocols with Iraq to open a total of \$800 million in credits to the neighbouring country, a cabinet minister said Monday. State Minister Isin Celebi, returning from a visit to Iraq, told reporters at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport that a protocol was signed to provide a credit of \$400 million to finance Iraq's imports from Turkey. Celebi said a second agreement was also signed with Iraq to open another credit of \$400 million to be used to finance Iraqi projects that would be carried out by Turkish contractors.

N. Yemen expects higher oil output

BAHRAIN (R) — North Yemen is now producing 200,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil and expects to increase this to 250,000 by the end of the year, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al-Iryani was quoted on Tuesday as saying. Iryani told Bahrain's Al-Khaleej newspaper that his country, which began exporting oil in 1987, was also refining 10,000 b/d at a small refinery. He made no mention of exports from the joint border area with South Yemen where a five-company consortium has been awarded exploration rights. North Yemen and South Yemen last November signed an agreement to merge their countries. Iryani said the unity constitution laid down economic principles for the new state. "These are the private, public and joint sectors," he said but gave no details.

British consumer spending falls

LONDON (R) — British retail sales fell slightly last month but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government is still battling to curb consumer spending and cut inflation, official figures released Monday showed. Retail sales fell by 1.3 per cent in January after an unusually big jump of 1.9 per cent in December. Government officials said the two figures suggested an underlying growth in sales. Spending has been slow to react until now to high interest rates, currently at 15 per cent. Inflation remains stubbornly high at 7.7 per cent. "The government's high interest rate policy is starting to work, but it cannot be relaxed just yet," said Evelyn Brodie, an economist at London brokers Morgan Grenfell Securities. The conservative government said investors cashing in windfall profits from the privatisation of Britain's water industry last December may have swelled spending in January.

Romania reveals economic secret

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania reported Monday another secret emerging from the era of ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu — it has a total of 43,000 people out of work. Under Ceausescu, topped and executed in December, unemployment officially did not exist. The national news agency Rompres said the 43,000 had been registered as jobless for months or years. According to official figures from 1989, Romania has a total workforce of just under eight million people. Rompres said unemployment was hitting young people the hardest, adding large industrial concerns could not increase their workforce because "now they have to comply with the principles of economic efficiency and raising labour productivity."

USSR reduces oil exports to Poland

WARSAW (R) — The Soviet Union has cut crude oil deliveries to Poland by a third for the first quarter of 1990 and Warsaw may have to look elsewhere for supplies, the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said Tuesday. The cutback by Moscow, which provides most of Poland's oil imports, followed reported reductions in Soviet oil and gas supplies to other East European countries. Jerzy Szewczyk, director of state oil firm CPN, told Rzeczpospolita that Moscow had cut deliveries of crude oil for the first three months of this year to 2.1 million tonnes from 3.1 million tonnes. He did not make clear if all the deliveries had been made yet but said petrol stations would not be affected if demand remained the same until the end of the first quarter. "However, if demand grows the CPN will buy fuel abroad," Szewczyk said. He gave no details and government officials declined to comment.

Benetton pulls out of insurance

MILAN (R) — Benetton, the Italian group which made its name selling colourful knitwear, announced Monday it would pull out of insurance and some other financial services to concentrate on its core industry.

"We do not believe we have the capacity to play a role in finance on an international level," Gianni Mion, managing director of Edizione Holding, which controls Benetton Group SPA, told a press conference.

He said Benetton intended to concentrate instead on the activities on which its reputation was based.

Although Benetton has become known over the past decade in Europe, the United States and Far East for its brightly-coloured casual clothes sold through a network of franchised boutiques, it diversified into areas such as fashion spectacles and Nordica skiwear as well as insurance and other financial services.

Mion said it had agreed the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Prudential Holding SPA, an insurance business it owns with Britain's Prudential Corp., to l'Abelle, part of French insurer groupe

Victoire S.A.

It was also planning to sell its financial services company, in Capital SPA, before the end of this year, Mion said.

He said the Prudential Holding sale would account for more than half of the 150 to 200 billion lire (\$120 to \$160 million) that Edizione expects to receive for shedding its financial services.

"Benetton has no need for external capital, it has enough resources to invest in its own development and that of Nordica," Mion said.

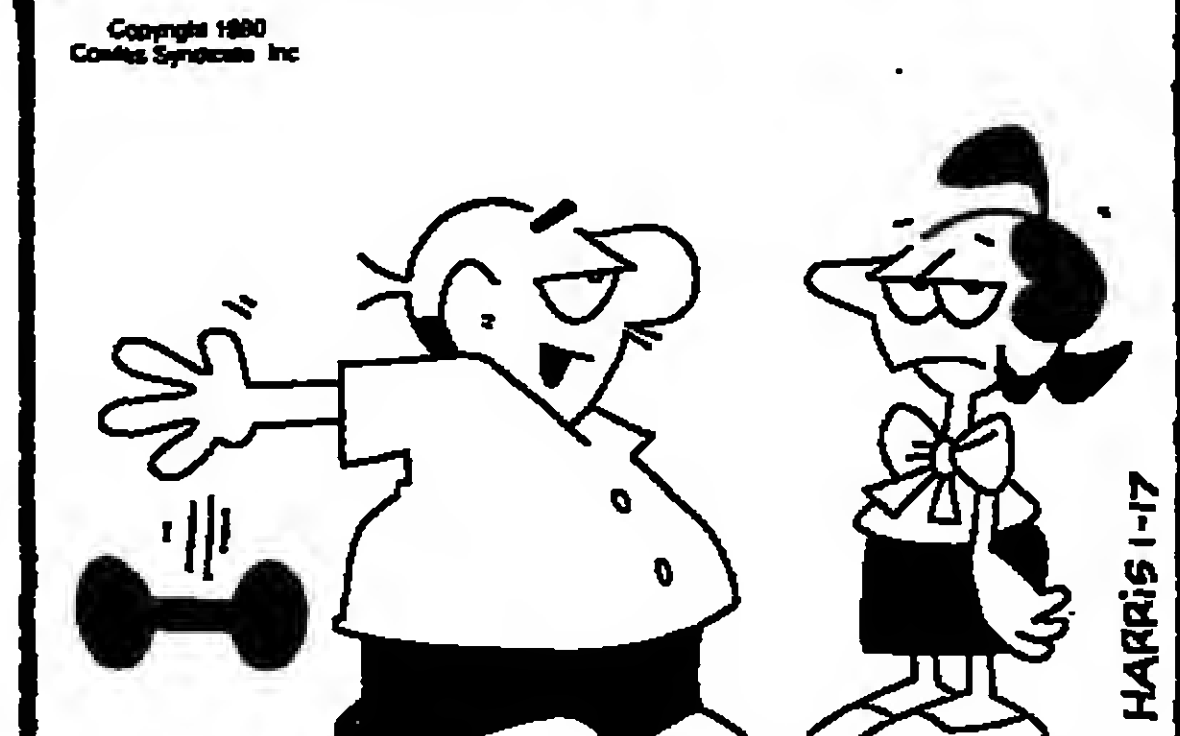
"We felt that the marriage be-

tween insurance and industry was not indispensable, we are primarily entrepreneurs."

The group is also considering shedding its banking interests, which include a 12 per cent stake in Banca Friuli and a 50 per cent stake in San Marino-based Credito Industriale Sanmarinese.

In a bid to develop its summer and winter sportswear business, Benetton is seeking potential partners for share exchanges, although it is not interested in mounting full takeovers, Mion said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I bet you I could drop ten pounds in less than a week — pay up!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ASTEE

LAHCK

SCXIE

REDDEG

Answer: C O O K I E S F O R T H E

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: EXUDE PARCH CORRAL FARINA

Answer: An outfit that makes one woman look slim often makes others look this — "ROUND"

Peanuts

IN CASE WE SEE A BEAR TODAY, I HOPE AT LEAST ONE OF YOU BROUGHT ALONG SOMETHING THAT WILL SCARE HIM...

Mutt'n Jeff

OH, YOU GOT CHICKENS! YEH, I'M SELLING EGGS FOR EASTER! MUTT, MUTT! I THINK I HEARD SOMEONE IN MY CHICKEN COOP! WELL, GO OUT AND SEE! WHO'S IN MY CHICKEN COOP? NOBODY BUT US CHICKENS!

Andy Capp

WITHOUT YOU, PET, LIFE IS DULL, DREARY, OVERCAST! THANKS, BUT SHE'S OKAY FOR WEATHER REPORTS! TRY LATER WHEN HER MUWIS GONE, EH?

Napoli, thirsty for revenge

By Ramona

DIEGO Maradona's Napoli, topped and trounced by AC Milan in the Italian Soccer League Sunday, are so thirsty for revenge that a mere three days seems too long to wait.

The two clubs meet each other for the third time in two weeks Wednesday with Napoli hoping home advantage will allow them to exercise Sunday's crushing 3-0 league defeat.

"Wednesday's game could be a crucial psychological turnaround. If they could, the boys would play it this minute," said Napoli coach Alberto Bigon as he prepared his team.

Napoli, who drew 0-0 away in the first leg of their Italian cup semifinal, need just one goal in Wednesday's second leg to put the European and World Club champions out of the cup.

With Brazilian Almano and centre-forward Andre Carne-

vale both injured, Maradona's side allies are likely to be Brazilian striker Careca and the usually boisterous home crowd.

But the fans may be more subdued than usual after Sunday's defeat — as one Naples taxi driver told Carnevale on his return home: "You see this rain? They're tears of pain."

In the other cup game Wednesday, Juventus tackles Roma and are favourites after their 2-0 win in the first leg.

Despite rumours in the Italian press that Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker was being courted by Juventus, he told Dutch radio he was discussing a possible extension of his contract.

His current agreement expires in 1991 and Ajax want him to sign for a further two years but Beenhakker said he wanted to see how much money Ajax planned to make available for building up the squad before taking any decision.

English soccer manager fined for betting against own team

LONDON (AP) — English soccer manager Lou Macari was found guilty Monday of betting against his own team and fined £1,000 (\$1,700) in a case that had been compared to the 1919 scandal that exiled shoeless Joe Jackson from baseball.

Macari, a former Scottish star who could have received a lifetime ban from soccer, also was censured by the English Football Association disciplinary committee that heard the case.

Brian Hillier, chairman of the Swindon team against which the bet was placed, also was found guilty by the FA committee and suspended from soccer for six months.

The Swindon club, which lost the 1988 FA Cup game 5-0 to heavily favoured Newcastle, was fined £7,500 (\$12,750).

Macari, who was the manager of Swindon in 1988, was given a

vote of confidence by his current club, West Ham, immediately after the verdict.

"It is apparent from the penalty imposed on Macari that his minimal involvement in respect of these matters was accepted by the FA," said club secretary Tom Finn. "We trust and hope we will be allowed to return to a normal life and concentrate on his duties as manager of West Ham."

Macari and Hillier were found guilty of violating an FA rule prohibiting players and club officials from betting on the result of a single match.

Betting is legal throughout Britain and each sport is responsible for enforcing its own rules on gambling. The FA does not prevent players or officials from betting on their own team over an extended period, such as predicting the club's place in the standings at the end of the year.

Boxers focus on referee's count

NEW YORK (AP) — Blinking through eyes blurred by the force of a punch, his brain racing after the anxiety of a knockdown, the fallen fighter sees a referee flashing fingers in front of his face and shouting over the din of the crowd.

"Four... five... six."

When that happens, the only thing that matters to the man on the canvas are those fingers.

"Seven... eight."

They are his lifeline, the boxer's barometer for survival. Veteran officials agreed Monday those fingers are why Buster Douglas ought to be recognised as the heavyweight champion of the world.

Douglas went down from a Mike Tyson punch near the end of the eighth round in Sunday's title fight in Tokyo. Referee Octavio Meyran bent over him, and, apparently missing the

timekeeper's call, was a second or two slow in picking up the count. Douglas was up at nine on Meyran's count and at least two referees agree that ought to end all debate right there.

"The way it is supposed to occur," referee Mills Lane said, "is once a fighter is down the ref's first concern is getting the other fighter to a neutral corner. If he goes without delay, the ref turns and picks up the timekeeper's count, generally at two or three. If he doesn't go without delay, you can penalise the failure by picking up the count at less than where the timekeeper had it."

There was no indication of any delay by Tyson or any penalty imposed by Meyran. To Lane, however, when Meyran began counting, that had to be the only thing with which Douglas needed to be concerned.

"Once the ref picks up the count, that's the official count," he said. "What he should have done, if Tyson went without delay, was pick up the count where the timekeeper had it. If he erred, you can't penalise Douglas."

Tyson, promoter recognise Douglas as champ

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King wants the world to know that he and Mike Tyson recognise Buster Douglas as the undisputed heavyweight champion.

King doesn't want the championship belts back for Tyson. But he does want an immediate rematch because of an error by the referee.

"I never asked anybody to change the decision," King said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press late Monday night.

"We just want a first shot at a rematch."

Douglas knocked out the previously unbeaten Tyson in the 10th round on Sunday in Tokyo in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

Graf needs no surgery

HEIDELBERG, West Germany (AP) — Steffi Graf learned Monday she won't have to undergo surgery on her broken thumb, but the top-ranking tennis player likely will be out of action for about six weeks.

The 20-year-old Graf said she's sure she'll be ready to play in the French Open starting May 28, and to resume her quest for a second Grand Slam.

Graf splintered a bone in her right thumb when she fell during a skiing outing in the Swiss resort of St. Moritz last week.

She was examined at the Heidelberg university hospital last Thursday, but a decision on whether to operate was postponed because of swelling.

Horst Cotta, a specialist at the Heidelberg hospital, said Graf won't need surgery but she will likely have to take a rest of about six weeks.

Graf had already dropped out of a March 5-11 tournament in Boca Raton, Florida, and another on March 16-25 in Key

Biscayne.

Graf told reporters: "In any case, I'll be staying in Heidelberg for treatment of my injury."

She also said she planned to take a vacation.

But Graf said she was confident she'll be ready for the French Open.

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The applicant must meet the following requirements:

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- Good knowledge of the English language.
- Holds a car driving licence.
- Able to correspond and write his own reports in English.
- Preferably experienced in the specified work.

Applicants must mail their handwritten applications with typed C.V. and a recent photograph as well as photocopies of their academic and experience certificates to:

P.O. Box 926041, Amman.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR BHARF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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AN OPEN LETTER TO OMAR

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

7 2

A J 6 3 2

3

A K 10 9 7

WEST

3 8 5 5

10 9 8 5

K 4

Q 8 4

EAST

K

Q 4

J 10 9 8 7 2

4 5 3

SOUTH

A Q 10 6 4 3

7

A Q 5 4

12

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 2 2 4

Pass 3 3 Pass 4

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of 0

Dear Omar:

Since it was at your suggestion

that I entered the Sports World

Pairs, I was somewhat surprised by

the comments of you and your fellow

analysts on this deal. I was

among those who reached four

spades rather than three on trump

on the auction shown. West led

the king of diamonds, and your com-

mentary forecast that I would lose

two trump tricks.

A lesser mortal, perhaps, but it is

not for nothing that I have earned

the sobriquet of Trump Coup Team

my. This hand was tailor-made for

my unique talent.

I won the first trick with my ace

of diamonds, crossed to the ace of

hearts and the hand began to be

interesting when I led a trump from

dummy and East produced the king!

For me, the rest was routine.

I crossed to the king of clubs and

ruffed a heart. Back to the table

with a diamond ruff for another

heart ruff, then to the ace of clubs to

discard a diamond on the good jack

of hearts. A club ruff reduced my

hand to the queen-ten of trumps

and queen of diamonds, while West

was down to nothing but three

trumps. I simply led my diamond

and poor West had to ruff and then

lead from the jack of spades into my

queen-ten tenace. An easy 12 tricks.

I don't know if you've been living

it up in Paris, but I would advise

you to cut it out and play more

bridge. Obviously, you're getting

rusty!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the take brings a good chance that you could see improvement as the direct result of the actions of another party who has a worrying nature.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will have new ideas for your home which are extremely good now. You can make mistakes if you are too anxious to acquire money now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use an opportunity now that gives you a chance to be helpful to a good friend. Being helpful with your attachment's problems brings you much appreciation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make as many new friends as possible at this time. A successful friend has excellent ideas for you in money or in business.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Persons with good helpful ideas will come into your home. Much care on a trip for accidents when your attachment is present.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Even though inconvenient, study the best ways to improve your daily duties. A trip with your loved one could be very beneficial now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Pursue an important financial matter with an interesting new friend. Business persons will be very helpful to you at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure you have all situations in good order at your home. Too much excitement today could frus-

trate your attachment for a while.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Lack of attention to loved ones could cause friction at home. Take some to your attachment to prove that you really do care about this day.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join with both friends and groups to have a pleasant social time. Be with your attachment today as much as possible to show you care.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new attitude at your home can bring much interest and pleasure. You will need to combine affection and self-control to please your loved one.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to see friends and acquaintances that have been difficult for you to contact lately. Entertaining at home requires that you do not be hit with problems.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't let any of your family change your home routines. Adopt a new practical attitude towards your close attachment.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has it within their power to accomplish a great deal that is very practical in its nature and it is wise that you listen to what this progeny has to say upon maturity for this individual could be a regular genius where business and finance are concerned.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

LOST PASSPORT

I, Jizhar Mohammad Khan of India, announce the loss of my passport number (Y-470030) which was issued and renewed through the Embassy of India in Amman and is valid until May 1992.

Tel: 950740 - Zarqa
Or please deliver to the nearest police station.

CITIBANK

POSITION VACANT

CITIBANK Amman is seeking to employ an MBA graduate for a challenging position in the bank. Applicants with prior banking experience are encouraged to apply, however prior experience is not a must.

Interested applicants should send their Curriculum Vitae with a recent photo to the following address:

Personnel Officer
CITIBANK, N.A.
P.O. Box 5055
Amman, Jordan

The latest date for receipt of applications is February 28, 1990.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A salesperson and book distribution agent for a small publishing house. Will work with retail outlets and possibly on door-to-door basis; also involving some related office work. Owning a car is a plus. Thirty hour work week.

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Invites you to spend one of the best nights. We will take you to the original Arab-past at a dinner party to be held at Kan Zaman restaurant in Yaddouah on Thursday Feb. 15, 1990 at 8:30 p.m., on the occasion of Valentine's Day.

For further information please call Tel: 06/736449, 08/544404, 08/541964

Ticket price: JD 10,000

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THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz

ACROSS

- Defense gp.
- Chin. beast
- Nautical call
- Playing card
- Bitter drug
- Coffee
- Regatta item
- Primitive
- Algerian port
- Philosophical ideal
- Seagull to develop
- Cold cuts
- Competitor
- Begin to develop
- Degree of distinction
- Blatant
- Profile
- Bristle
- Some tots in Oct.
- Opera heroine
- School paper
- Agt.
- Fragrant
- Wart of the cloth: abbr.
- US satellite
- Edge further
- Attribution
- Do suits
- Uninteresting
- Fearsome mixture
- "— Maria"
- Light on one's feet
- 72 mission
- Corral
- Fills up
- Evil being
- Habitatory sounds

DOWN

- Tolerated
- Knowing
- Pink color
- Handle
- Touched ground
- bone
- Scenery
- Residue
- Passing no judgment
- Singer
- NT book
- Break part
- Heapsie roots
- Hindu god
- Pointed end
- Be unsociable
- 72 Cafe
- Decorators
- Pair
- Star drink
- Halation of
- Cosmos file
- Sci. gpa.
- Clapton
- de-camp
- Belief
- Legal claims: abbr.
- Hymn
- Jog handle
- Voice notes
- Some taxes
- the night
- 50 Gaelic
- By way of
- 54 Black
- Hang in folds
- 57 Meat dish
- 58 Blisful abodes
- 60 Latvian city
- 81 Go — (fight)
- 63 Small weight
- 64 Sample tape
- 67 Blue
- 68 Triumphed

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Tolerated
- 2 Knowing
- 3 Pink color
- 4 Handle
- 5 Touched ground
- 6 — bone
- 7 Scenery
- 8 Residue
- 9 Passing no judgment
- 10 Singer
- 11 NT book
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- 39 60 Latvian city
- 40 81 Go — (fight)
- 41 63 Small weight
- 42 64 Sample tape
- 43 67 Blue
- 44 68 Triumphed

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CONCORD

LICENCE TO KILL

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PHILADELPHIA

MY TUTOR

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUR

Michel Kiton
star of Batman in
BEETLE JUICE

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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PLAZA

COCKTAIL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

6 killed in Tajikistan unrest

Dushanbe crowds confront tanks; trouble starts in Soviet Kirgizia

MOSCOW (R) — Angry crowds confronted troops and tanks in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan in Soviet Central Asia, Tuesday and press reported said unrest had also broken out in neighbouring Kirgizia.

Six people have already died in riots in Dushanbe and a local journalist said automatic gunfire could be heard Tuesday as crowds defied troops, tanks and armoured vehicles sealing off the approaches to the Communist Party Central Committee and packed into nearby streets.

A spokesman at the official Tajik News Agency Tadjiktag said the crowds twice tried to smash through the security cordon but were forced back.

"Eventually the crowds were dispersed and the situation is now under control," he told Reuters by telephone.

Moscow Radio confirmed that tanks had been sent into Dushanbe to enforce a state of emergency declared Monday night after rioters attacked the Central Committee building, set it on fire and rampaged through the city.

Boris Mikhailov, a spokesman at the Interior Ministry in Moscow, confirmed that six people had been killed in the riots. He said 108 were injured including 39 members of the security forces. Thirty people had been detained.

The youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that similar unrest broke out in Frumze, capital of the neighbouring Central Asian republic of Kirgizia.

Like the riots in Dushanbe, the crowds' anger was directed at Armenian refugees.

Tens of thousands of Armenians fled the Azerbaijan capital Baku last month after 60 of their people were killed in riots. A few were evacuated to Central Asia capitals, including Frumze and Dushanbe.

The newspaper said the centre Frumze was sealed off by police Saturday after a series of protest meetings by unemployed

workers.

There are at least 100,000 people out of work in Kirgizia and high unemployment is widespread in Soviet Central Asia where there is little industry and the main crops of cotton and fruit provide only seasonal work for much of the population.

"Certain people were spreading rumours about the arrival of several thousand refugees from Azerbaijan and other regions of the country and that they were being given apartments," Komsomolskaya Pravda said.

"People believed the rumours and passions were inflamed still further. People began to shout nationalist slogans."

According to local journalists the trouble in Dushanbe started Sunday after agitators from Azerbaijan began spreading rumours in the city markets that thousands of Armenian refugees were being given priority on housing lists.

They said between 5,000 and 10,000 people attended a meeting in the city Sunday demanding the expulsion of all refugees within 24 hours. When party chief Kakhar Makhomov attempted to address the crowd he was greeted with a chorus of whistles and

peeled with apple cores.

The crowd eventually dispersed after receiving assurances from Makhomov that he would answer their demands the next day. But when an even larger crowd massed in front of the central committee building Monday, there was no sign of him.

Eyewitnesses said the crowd, some apparently drunk or drugged, broke through a security cordon and burst into the building, ransacking offices and hurling furniture out of the windows. Police said two floors were set on fire.

The journalists said the rioters left the building after failing to find Makhomov and rampaged through the streets, wrecking newspaper kiosks, looting shops and setting official cars ablaze, pursued by a column of troops.

They said two armoured personnel carriers (APC) headed for the Central Committee building to protect it against the attack but found their way blocked by a barricade of trolleybuses.

"One APC, with the number 322 on its side, moved into a group of onlookers," said one journalist, adding that some of the six people killed then.

Soviet Communists abandon old dogma in new party platform

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's ruling Communists, abandoning dogma that has dominated their party's thinking for seven decades, Tuesday appeared headed cautiously along the road of political reform.

A new platform for submission to a party congress in the summer renounced proletarian dictatorship and the class view of international relations while opening the door to a multi-party system and the return of the long-reviled private property.

"Our ideal is a humane, democratic socialism," declared the document, issued overnight by the Soviet News Agency (TASS) after its approval last week at a plenary session of the party's policy-setting Central Committee.

But despite the strong influence of the "new thinking" policies of party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in its wording, the platform was clearly far from launching the Soviet party down the total reform path of Eastern Europe.

It proclaimed loyalty to the philosophy of traditional Soviet Communism's founding fathers Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and state founder Vladimir Lenin — whose formulas many radicals in the former Soviet Bloc now say were wrong.

However, the carefully-worded document appeared to confirm that the party which has ruled alone since soon after the October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution

would ask the country's parliament to remove its right to rule from the constitution.

And it declared: "The development of society does not preclude the possibility of forming parties. The procedure for their formation will be established by law and reflected in the constitution of the USSR."

The cautious formulation of parts of the document appeared to reflect continued resistance within the party — which since the early 1920s has controlled almost every aspect of Soviet life — to giving up power and privileges.

This resistance was voiced by several speakers at last week's Central Committee meeting, at least one of whom accused Gorbachev of taking the country to the edge of anarchy with his "perestroika" programme.

As the platform was being issued through TASS, the Soviet parliament's guiding body, the President of the Supreme Soviet which the Kremlin chief chairs, announced it was pushing hard for much wider powers for a state presidency.

Over the past two weeks, Gorbachev supporters have argued for the quick creation of a much more powerful presidential system which would enable him to take tougher measures in implementing his reforms against conservative opposition.

Saying it wanted the establishment of "democratic presidential power," the presidium said a session of the main parliamentary body, the Congress of People's Deputies, should be called soon to consider the idea.

The platform, which will eventually be replaced by a full-blown programme after this summer's congress, provides for a reshaping of the long-static structure of the party and its ruling bodies.

It indicated that the present politburo, the 12-man body that effectively rules the Soviet Union and hands down orders to the government, would disappear to be replaced by a larger and more amorphous party presidium.

Sitting on the presidium — a move clearly in deference to a growing mood of independence in many outlying Soviet regions — would be the party leaders of the country's 15 republics.

And, the document indicated, instead of the post of general secretary a new position of party chairman with two deputies would be established.

The problem posed for Gorbachev by rising tension in the republics was highlighted Monday night by an announcement that a state of emergency and curfew had been declared in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan in Central Asia.

Radio Moscow said there were several deaths in rioting there at the weekend and Monday in which, according to one local police chief, local offices of the Communist Party were attacked and partly burned out.

Enemies want control of army — China

PEKING (Agencies) — China said Tuesday that its enemies wanted to gain control of the army and it vowed to keep the armed forces loyal to socialism and the Communist Party.

The Liberation Army Daily said in a commentary the military was a major obstacle to advocates of "peaceful evolution" who wanted to dismantle the socialist system.

"In the international arena there are some bourgeois politicians and instigators of unrest...who believe that a major factor in the failure of last year's turmoil was that they did not gain hold of the military," the newspaper said.

"Determining whose hands will hold power over the army will be a focus of our long-term struggle with the supporters of bourgeois liberalism," it said.

Bourgeois liberalism is Communist Chinese jargon for unacceptable Western ideas. The commentary appeared aimed at Chinese dissidents who fled overseas after the army crushed pro-democracy protests last June.

Since then, China's Communist leaders have frequently called for the army to remain loyal to the party.

But they have generally avoided explaining why it was so

important to maintain vigilance within the army's ranks.

"This seems to be more evidence of a rather large problem of keeping the army's loyalty," said one Western military expert.

Diplomats said dramatic reforms that could end the Communist Party's monopoly on power in the Soviet Union may be adding to Chinese concerns with keeping a firm grasp on power.

Thousands of people remain imprisoned in China and summary arrests, torture and executions continue more than eight months after the brutal suppression of demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, according to allegations cited Monday in a note by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The document, containing detailed reports by non-governmental human rights groups on Peking's clampdown on the pro-democracy movement, is to be discussed by the U.N. Human Rights Commission during its current six-week session.

An accompanying letter from the Chinese government says authorities showed the "utmost tolerance and restraint in the face of illegal demonstrations" and describes its actions as "justified and legitimate."

There have been further arbitrary arrests, and prisoners continue to be detained incommunicado without charge or trial, imprisoned or executed after unfair trials," Amnesty said.

The human rights group said tens of thousands had been arrested since June, including up to 10,000 in Peking alone. Official reports put the number of detainees throughout the country at about 10,000.

Amnesty has estimated that at least 1,000 were killed and thousands injured when troops moved in on peaceful demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

Aquino: ties with U.S. still strong

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino Tuesday said U.S.-Philippine relations remain strong despite her decision not to meet U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during his visit next week.

"My decision not to meet with U.S. Defence Secretary Cheney is not meant as an affront in any way, but the result of my assessment that the matters he wants to take up are best taken up, at this time, with his counterpart in our government, (Defence Secretary) (Fidel) Ramo," Mrs. Aquino said.

"Our relations with the United States remain strong and firm as sovereign allies sharing common ideals and pursuing the same democratic and peaceful interests," she said.

Mrs. Aquino complained Sunday that American newspapers published speculative reports on the contents of her conversations with visiting American officials.

She said that to avoid more speculation, she would not be meeting visiting U.S. officials in the meantime.

Aquino was referring to reports that Robert Gates, deputy national security adviser of U.S. President George Bush, warned her last month to make sweeping changes in government to address grievances raised by rebel soldiers who launched the December coup attempt.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary

Raul Manglapus and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt met Tuesday to consider possible dates for the start of talks on the future of the six U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Manglapus told reporters the two sides were "trying to arrive at a mutually acceptable date." He said the Philippines proposed that talks begin in April after the Easter holidays.

The talks were to have been held last December, but Mrs. Aquino decided to postpone them following the military mutiny.

An agreement under which the U.S. operates out of Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Station and four smaller installations expires in September 1991.

The FAO estimated that cereals production in sub-Saharan Africa fell six per cent to 34.3 million tonnes last year.

As a result, the region's grain import requirement would rise to 8.6 million tonnes in 1990 from 7.9 million last year.

Half could be purchased commercially on the world market, but the rest would have to come in the form of food aid.

The FAO said 12 African countries had food surpluses totalling 1.2 million tonnes last year and urgently needed donor assistance to dispose of them through swap or multilateral agreements.

For example, several Western donors are exporting surplus Kenyan maize to southern Sudan, where it is being distributed by relief agencies.

The donors are paying for the maize with shipments of wheat, which Kenya still has to import.

The FAO also encouraged donors to buy grain from surplus areas in countries which have localised shortages for distribution in the deficit areas.

Ryzhkov starts visit to Australia

MELBOURNE (AP) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, the highest ranking Kremlin official to visit Australia, arrived Tuesday in the latest stop on a Pacific tour aimed at forging closer economic ties.

Ryzhkov arrived from Bangkok and was greeted by Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

Ryzhkov, the main architect of Soviet economic reform, will spend three days in Australia, visit three cities and sign agreements on matters including port access for Soviet fishing trawlers and consular guarantees and commodities deals.

He spent Tuesday inspecting the distribution centre for the Australian-owned Safeway supermarket chain and later officially opened a centre for Soviet and East European studies at the Uni-

versity of Melbourne.

The computerised food distribution and management at the complex could be useful in the Soviet Union, said Vadim P. Perfilov, deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Department.

Shortages of food and inefficient distribution are one of the Soviet government's most pressing problems.

Later at a dinner given by Premier John Cain of Victoria State, Ryzhkov said the Soviet Union would not be stopped in its reform programmes.

"Despite the difficulties, we are determined to continue along the road we have mapped out," he said.

He said reforms underway were the "most radical" ever carried out by "democratising the whole of our society and develop-

a new federalism in my country."

Last week the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee approved a proposal to end the party's monopoly on power. The proposal must be passed at an upcoming Communist Party congress to be implemented.

Ryzhkov, the no. 2 man in the Kremlin, also will visit Canberra, the federal capital, and Sydney, Australia's largest city. He has lengthy talks scheduled with Hawke and also meetings with some of the country's top business leaders.

While in Bangkok, Ryzhkov voiced optimism for a peaceful solution to the Cambodia conflict and said the Soviet Union's efforts to reform the economy were on the right track.

He leaves Friday for Singapore, which next year will host a major meeting of Pacific rim countries.

Judge delays Poindexter trial date

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has delayed the start of John Poindexter's Iran-contra trial by two weeks but said he will proceed with plans to take former President Ronald Reagan's videotaped deposition.

U.S. district judge Harold Greene said that "hopefully" Reagan's testimony can be taken Friday in a courtroom of the federal courthouse in Los Angeles.

The judge rejected a suggestion by the ex-president's lawyers that the deposition be taken in a building in Los Angeles where Reagan has offices.

One of Poindexter's lawyers, Richard Becker, had urged Greene to put off taking Reagan's testimony until the middle of the trial after Iran-contra prosecutors have presented their case.

"I am not going to buy that. We are going to proceed," said Greene.

Greene said he is delaying the start of the trial until March 5 to resolve a number of issues, including disagreement concerning some 150 classified documents that Poindexter, a former national security adviser to Reagan, wants to use at his trial.

Regarding the disputes over classified material, the judge will have to rule on whether the documents are necessary for the former national security adviser to get a fair trial. If Greene rules that they are necessary and if U.S. intelligence agencies refuse to allow their declassification, the Poindexter trial could be placed in jeopardy.

As past Iran-contra cases have shown, it is not unusual to have unresolved last-minute disputes over the use of classified material. There were repeated disputes over the use of such material before and during the trial of former National Security Council staffer Oliver North.

The Iran-contra affair was the biggest government scandal to hit the U.S. capital since Watergate.

California oil spill hits nature preserve

HUNTINGTON BEACH, California (AP) — Waves of grimy crude oil spilled by a tanker was washed onto a 3.2-kilometre stretch of beach near a refuge for endangered pelicans and other birds.

Authorities closed about 16 kilometres of popular surfing and sunbathing beaches to the public for at least three weeks because of the health threat posed by fumes from the oil.

In Washington, meanwhile, President George Bush said that he hasn't decided whether to open new tracts off California and Florida to oil drilling, but he defended offshore well safety and said the country needs oil.

"I have said that we're not going to have drilling in highly environmentally sensitive places. But I'll be damned if I think we ought to shut down all offshore drilling everywhere," Bush said at a news conference.

He questioned the logic of drilling opponents in California who claim their case was bolstered by last week's oil spill off Huntington Beach.

"A freighter or tanker has a hole punched in it and I see a whole bunch of guys jumping up and down saying this proves you can't have any offshore drilling," said Bush, a former oilman. "I'm not sure I understand the connection."

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston of California viewed the fouled beaches from a helicopter, then criticised Bush's statements.

"The president should read the environmental impact statements by his own Department of the Interior, which point out that the more drilling platforms that you have, the more tankers you will need," said Cranston.

Meanwhile, the 400,000 gallons (1.5 million litres) of crude oil spilled by the tanker continued to wash ashore.

Cleanup crews dispatched to the fouled Bolsa Chica State beach discovered what authorities called the most serious beach pollution since the spill Wednesday from the tanker Amerasia Trader. The ship had apparently punctured itself twice on its own anchor as it manoeuvred near a submerged pipeline.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet spaceship docks with Mir

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet space ship with two cosmonauts on board docked with the Mir space station Tuesday, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported. The Soyuz TM-9 carrying mission Commander Anatoly Soloviyov and flight engineer Alexander Balandin docked at 9:35 a.m. Moscow time (0635 GMT), TASS said. The Soyuz crew are to replace cosmonauts Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Serebrov, who have been in orbit aboard Mir for five months and plan to return to Earth Monday. The new cosmonauts blasted off Sunday from the Baikonour cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia. They are the sixth team to occupy Mir since its launch in February 1986 to replace the Salyut-7 space station, which was stripped of its equipment and abandoned. TASS gave no details of Tuesday's docking. When Viktorenko and Serebrov arrived at Mir last Sept. 8, they had to make a manually-controlled link-up after automatic docking systems failed.

90 rebels killed in Philippine attack

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (R) — About 90 Communist guerrillas were killed and more than 100 wounded when military planes bombed a rebel stronghold in the southern Philippines last week, a captured guerrilla said Tuesday. The military said two soldiers were killed and 14 were wounded during a week-long battle ending last Friday in Balingasag municipality, Misamis Oriental province, 750 kilometres south east of Manila. It said government forces used bomber planes and five helicopter gunships to pound the rebels' mountain camp in the bloodiest fighting this year with guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA), who have been waging an insurgency for 20 years. The captured rebel, Laureto Castillo, was among those who escaped during the attack but was later arrested by the military. "The bombs hit our logistics command post and about 90 of us were killed," Castillo said in an interview. "Our cadre leaders left us and it was each man for himself."

Indonesian volcano toll rises to 24

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll risen to 24 and three people remained missing Tuesday following the Saturday eruption of a volcano in central Java, a local official and news reports said. "There have been 21 people found dead in Blitar regency as of Tuesday evening," said Abdul Mursid of Blitar's disaster response office. The official Antara News Agency said another three villagers, including an infant, were killed in the neighbouring regency of Kediri. Mount Kelud, a 1,731-metre volcano, erupted Saturday, spewing dust, gravel and rock over as far as 50 kilometres from the summit. The eruption destroyed Blitar's parliament building, about 35 kilometres south of the volcano crater, and a storehouse with 4,000 tonnes of fertilizer, Mursid said. A total of 295 houses and 60 other buildings, including schools, storehouses, factories and shops, were damaged. He said 108 of the houses were destroyed.

U.S. blacks end one of two sit-ins

SELMA, Alabama (AP) — About 150 black students have ended a five-day sit-in at Selma High School, then briefly joined a demonstration at city hall, all part of a racial protest that shut down all schools in this landmark city of the civil rights movement. The protesters carried a banner that said "keep the dream alive" to the city hall where they packed the corridors. A few adults took part along with the students. Before their arrival, all city hall offices were open, with only a handful of protesters in sight. When the students joined Sunday, however, all offices closed, except for Mayor Joe Slaughterman's. He remained, with several police guarding his door. By noon, all but about 25 adult and student protesters were gone from city hall, and offices reopened.

C8LUMN

Billionaire Trump, wife split

NEW YORK (R) — There is indeed trouble in paradise — billionaire real estate tycoon Donald Trump and his wife Ivana are getting a divorce. For the couple who have graced every society page from the New York Times to Vanity Fair magazine, living "happily ever after" was something that money just couldn't buy. A spokesman for Trump, confirming that Trump is to seek a divorce, has told Reuters that a pre-nuptial agreement gives 41-year-old Ivana, a blonde, Czechoslovak-born elegant former fashion model and Olympic skier, between \$20 million and \$25 million, the couple's mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut, and custody of their three children. All this might seem sting coming from a man worth in excess of \$2 billion, but New York gossip-columnists say there is a possibility Ivana may try to break the pact, renegotiated as recently as two years ago. A spokesman for the 43-year-old Trump said the agreement was most likely "100 per cent enforceable in a court of law." While Trump was building and buying and naming just about everything after himself, the story-book marriage of 12 years was in tatters, according to New York Daily News columnist Liz Smith, who broke the story over the weekend. The Daily News said Ivana was so busy taking care of the children, as well as her own business dealings, that she had no idea that their marriage was in trouble. Trump supposedly informed Ivana the marriage was over last Tuesday before he flew to Tokyo to see the Mike Tyson-Buster Douglas world heavyweight bout.

Simon, Lander remarry

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Playwright Neil Simon and actress Diane Lander, who divorced 18 months ago, have remarried. Actors Richard Benjamin and Paula Prentiss and comic Pat Reiner were among the 30 guests at the wedding at Simon's 30th home. Simon, 62, and Lander, 38, first wed in January 1971 and they divorced in the summer of 1988. Many of Simon's more than 25 plays have been turned into motion pictures, including Barefoot in the Park, the Odd Couple, Biloxi Blues and the Sunshine Boys. Ms. Lander was a regular on the now-defunct television show House Calls.

Sex offenders to choose castration or long sentence

OLYMPIA, Washington (AP) — The Washington Senate has passed a measure allowing sex offenders to choose castration in exchange for reducing their sentence by as much as 75 per cent. The bill was approved 25-23 and sent to the House where speaker Joe King said the measure probably won't come up before next year. The measure, and other legislation aimed at repeat sex offenders, is the legislature's reaction to recent crimes, including the sexual mutilation of a 7-year-old Tacoma boy. Senate critics accused backers of the bill of showing "blood lust" and said such a law would dump unrepentant sex criminals back on the streets years earlier than if they were to serve full prison terms. They predicted the courts would throw out such a law. But sponsors said studies have shown castration to cut repeat crime by 75 per cent or more. "Mutilation is too good for these people," said Senator Brad Owen. "It should be mandatory for these creeps." Both houses have approved tough sex-crimes legislation suggested by a citizens task force appointed by Gov. Booth Gardner.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	°C	°F	Wind
AMSTERDAM	03	47	15
ATHENS	07	45	12
BAGHDAD	14	57	20
BANGKOK	25	77	38
BARCELONA	10	50	18
BELGRADE	12	54	10
BOMBAY	28	82	15
BUDAPEST	05	41	10
CAIRO	12	54	10
CHICAGO	-05	23	12
COPENHAGEN	02	36	10
DUBLIN	01	34	10
FRANKFURT	01	34	10
GENEVA	01	34	10
HONGKONG	16	61	20
JAKARTA	28	82	15
LONDON	03	37	10
LOS ANGELES	12	54	10
MADRID	05	41	10
MELBOURNE	12	54	10
MOSCOW	-10	14	10
MONTREAL	18	64	20
MUMBAI	28	82	15
NEW DELHI	14	57	20
NEW YORK	01	34	10
PARIS	-01	30	10
ROME	04	40	10
SEATTLE	05	41	10
SYDNEY	15	59	10
TOKYO	05	41	10
WENTZ	04	39	10

W— indicates missing information